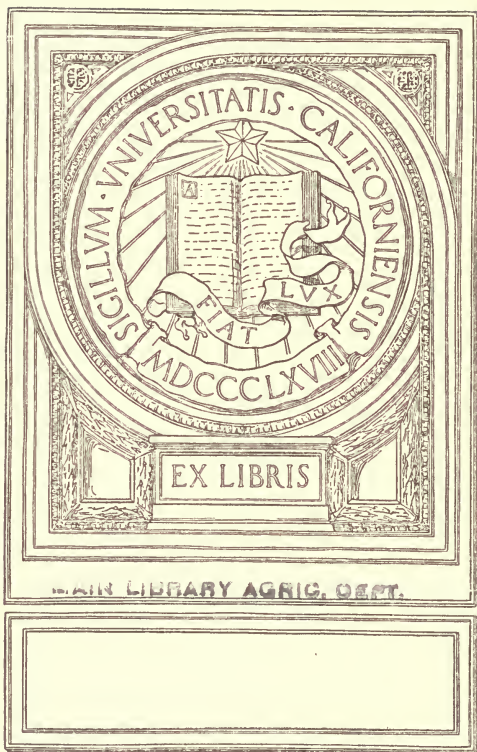


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AGRICULTURAL TOUR  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

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PRINTED BY JOHN STARK.

AGRICULTURAL TOUR  
IN  
THE UNITED STATES  
AND  
UPPER CANADA,  
WITH  
MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

BY  
CAPTAIN BARCLAY  
OF URY.

EDINBURGH:  
WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS, 182

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To  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD PANMURE,  
&c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR LORD,

FROM the interest you constantly take in everything connected with agriculture, and the benefit which, in this part of Scotland, the practice of it has derived from your example and munificence, there is no one to whom a work having reference to that subject, may more appropriately be inscribed.

With this conviction, and with a lively remembrance of friendship early evinced, always unvaried, and of which I continue to receive very gratifying proofs, I have the greatest pleasure in respectfully dedicating to your Lordship, the following relation of my visit to the United States and Upper Canada.

Forty years have revolved since I undertook a pedestrian task—one of the first in which I was engaged—on a match with the late Captain Fletcher of Balinshoe, in Forfarshire, for the large stake of 5000 guineas a

side. From my having been “young” enough to attempt it previously, for a small sum, without any preparation, and having consequently failed, the opinion of the knowing ones among the *Athletæ* of the day, was decidedly against me. On that occasion, you were not a disheartening doubter. I put myself in training under the celebrated *Jackey Smith* of Ouseton, near Easingwold in Yorkshire, recommended by you ; and owing much to his skilful management, I easily performed the task of ninety miles in twenty successive hours.

I have now ventured on a task of quite another kind—an endeavour to describe, and to suggest improvements in the rural affairs of a distant land.

In this I may again have been attempting what by some may be thought hazardous ; but again I am encouraged by your approbation of my purpose, and by that I shall be greatly consoled, even if other opinions prove unfavourable.

With the greatest regard, I have the honour to be,

MY DEAR LORD,

Yours very sincerely,

R. BARCLAY-ALLARDICE.

URY, 5th January 1842.

## P R E F A C E.

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FROM habitual pursuits, the writer, in his visit to the other side of the Atlantic, would most probably have found his attention peculiarly attracted by agricultural matters. But one of the principal objects of his visit, having been to assist a near relative to determine whether an intended purchase of land, for a permanent residence, should be made in the United States or in Upper Canada, he was still the more particularly induced to enquire into the situation of rural affairs in these countries.

He accordingly investigated them with considerable care, and noted those more prominent and important points which appeared sufficient to convey a general view of Transatlantic agriculture.

In the following pages will be found recorded, the facts he ascertained and the observations they elicited; and he will feel amply gratified if the result of his labours, in this respect, prove interesting to agriculturists at home, or, if these pages reach the hands of any of his Transatlantic friends, be deemed worthy of their consideration.

An acquaintance with the soils and seasons of a country, with its laws and customs, and the habits and even the prejudices of its people, more intimate and extensive than can be acquired by a stranger in a passing visit, may be thought necessary to authorise and give effect to the proposal of material changes in the practice of its agriculture.

But such an observation admits of great qualification:—For in the practical agriculture of a country, there may be defects which are obvious at first sight to the agriculturist of any other country, even where local circumstances are of the utmost dissimilarity. But when there is proposed, a comparison of the rural economy of two countries, in which the



same crops are cultivated, the same species of stock reared, where the soils bear a near resemblance, and the dissimilitude of climates is not so great as to preclude a notion of their distinct effects, it does not seem that the practice of the one may not properly enough be estimated by the practice of the other.

Such, in a great degree, are the circumstances which attend a comparison of the agriculture of the United States, with the agriculture of Britain, and therefore the writer did not apprehend that he was guilty of any anomaly, in an endeavour to measure the former by the standards of the latter.

If he had entertained any doubt on this point, it would have been removed by his having, since his observations were committed to writing, had an opportunity of perusing an ably conducted American periodical, *The New Genesee Farmer*, in which he finds the most intelligent agriculturists in the States, hold up British farming as a guide to their countrymen.

Of this a sufficient example is furnished by

the following passage in a powerful address by Mr Biddle, chairman of an agricultural meeting at Philadelphia. After enumerating the many advantages possessed by the farmers of Pennsylvania, he expresses himself in these words :—

“ Having thus spoken of the advantages which we enjoy, I proceed to the less agreeable but more profitable enquiry, why our farms are not so productive as they ought to be—and I make the comparison between Pennsylvania and England, because I think England, on the whole, the best farming country in Europe ; and our English friends must understand, that while we amuse ourselves occasionally with some of their peculiarities, \* *we pay them the highest compliment we can, by proposing them* AS THE CONSTANT MODELS OF OUR FARMING.”

\* Mr Biddle here, in some measure, *compliments with a banter*, but does it very good naturedly, and it is pleasing to understand from him, that the Americans find the means of giving the English, “ a Rowland for their Oliver.”

This sufficiently corroborates the propriety of the criterion by which the writer formed his opinions of practical agriculture in the United States.

But, as to a certain extent confirming these opinions, it may be useful to notice that, in his address, Mr Biddle goes on to enquire—*why it is that with all the natural advantages the farmers of Pennsylvania possess, THE ENGLISH FARMER BEATS THEM ?*—and he ascribes this mainly, first to a want of taste for agriculture *as a profession*, and secondly to the Pennsylvania farmer not employing sufficiency of capital in his business.

Now these, it will be found, are included by the writer, among the causes to which he imputes the imperfect condition of agriculture in the United States, inasmuch as he has inculcated the propriety of granting there, what in this country are termed *improving leases*, in order that thereby the expenditure of capital may be encouraged and rendered safe, and a race of farmers by education and profession, may be established.

It may also be observed that among the various striking advantages possessed by the American farmer, in spite of which the skill of the British agriculturist triumphs, Mr Biddle instances the following :—that land which in England could not be rented under ten or twelve dollars an acre, may be rented in the States at two or three dollars ; and that if on an English farm of 200 acres, the rent and charges would amount to 3000 dollars, the same rent and charges would in the States, be only 700 dollars, making in favour of the American farm, a difference of 2300 dollars per annum.

In his estimate, insofar as relates to an English farm, Mr Biddle is no doubt below the mark, but his local knowledge is sufficient to warrant the accuracy of his statement in the other case ; and thus it will appear, the writer is supported to the full, in the opinion he has promulgated, as to the increase in productiveness, which would be effected by the introduction into the States, of the British modes of farming ; and also as to the great ad-

vantage which, consequently, the British agriculturist intending to emigrate, would reap from the employment of his capital and skill in that country.

Having taken occasion to make a comparison on the subject of emigration, between Upper Canada and the United States, the writer would here remark, that it may be supposed any prepossessions he had on that subject, must naturally have been on the side of a colony belonging to his own country.

But, on examining the matter on the spot, he found the difficulties and discouragements which settlers of moderate capital encounter in Upper Canada, are as yet so formidable, and the advantages to persons of whatever amount of capital, settling in the United States, comparatively so great, that he was called upon not to withhold the opinion he had formed, but to contribute what that opinion might be deemed worth, in preventing the serious disappointments which often is the lot of agricultural emigrants to the former country.

He does not conceive that a preference given, by British emigrants, to the United States, can prejudicially affect British interests. He would rather imagine its tendency were just the reverse ; as a good understanding between the two countries, so vitally important to both, must be promoted by infusing our superabundant population into the population of the States.\*

\* This was written before the writer had an opportunity of seeing " Buckingham's America," in which he finds a similar opinion more fully and forcibly expressed, in the following passage :

" If the surplus population of Britain, who cannot obtain adequate remuneration for their labour at home, could but be prevailed upon to transport themselves at once to this country, and seek for employment where it is best found on their arrival ; it is impossible to estimate, to their full extent, the benefits that would result to both countries, but, above all, to the parties emigrating. Here, millions of acres, now lying untouched, would be brought into cultivation, and the wealth of the country increased, while the spread of dwellings and population, the increase of towns and cities, the opening of railroads and canals, would send America a century forward in all that is desirable.

" In England the effect would be felt, first by a rise in

If the writer is right in suggesting that preference, it must, to those who coincide with him, be satisfactory to find, what now appears, that the tide of Transatlantic emigration has of late been setting strongly in the direction he recommends.

But whatever may be deemed best, with regard to the destination of British emigrants, it is to be regretted that adequate measures are not adopted by the government or the legislature, for encouraging and aiding emigration, to an extent sufficient to obviate the distress which an excess of population has created and is daily producing in this country. And although, under existing circumstances, Upper Canada does not certainly hold out to

the wages and an improvement of the condition of those who remained at home ; next in the increased demand for British manufactures, which the increased population of America would create ; and, lastly, *by the strengthening of those ties of kindred and connection between the people of the two countries, which would make all their friendly relations stronger and stronger, and make future wars between them more and more difficult, if not impossible.*"—Vol. ii. 416.

emigrants of capital, the advantages offered by the States, it is not to be doubted, that by a proper application of the means which the British nation could afford, and ought in good policy to devote to that purpose, such an improvement of the rural condition of the province might be accomplished, as would induce capitalists to settle there, and render it eligible for emigrants of every class, and to any numerical amount.

It only remains to be said in this place, that in referring by name to individuals with whom he had the pleasure of communicating in the course of his tour, the writer anxiously hopes it will not be considered that he has been guilty of any breach of courtesy.

He felt that the hospitality and kindness he experienced throughout, called for particular acknowledgement ; and, for the rest, he trusts the great importance of the improvement of agriculture generally, in the States, will be allowed to justify references to private practice, where he found it illustrative of prevailing defects.



If, therefore, any good shall proceed from his suggestions, he is persuaded the gentlemen to whom he has alluded, will not grudge him the liberty he has, for effecting it, taken with their names.



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# AGRICULTURAL TOUR

IN THE

UNITED STATES AND UPPER CANADA.

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## CHAPTER I.

Departure from Liverpool—Gale—Mail Steamers—  
Halifax—Aspect of the Town—Vicinity—Bay—De-  
parture from Halifax—Passengers from Liverpool—  
Captain Cleland.

*April 1841.*

AT 11 A. M. of Tuesday the 20th of April 1841, I sailed from Liverpool in the *Britannia* Mail-steamer, for Halifax and Boston. For the first two days of the voyage the weather was favourable, but on the second afternoon, on our leaving Cape Clear and bidding adieu to land, the wind changed right a-head, with a very heavy sea, which continued without intermission until the following Wednesday night.

On Sunday the 25th, we encountered a gale truly tremendous—the sea running mountains high, and frequently sweeping us from stem to stern—in the course of which one of the crew had his leg broken. The gallant ship, however, rode bravely through it, rising like a duck over the mountainous billows, and submitting admirably to the direction of the helm and the wonderful mechanism by which she was propelled. The Mail-steamers, four in number, are well adapted for crossing the stormy Atlantic, being 235 feet in length, and only about 30 feet wide, although from their being narrow and light, carrying besides fuel, nothing but passengers with their luggage, and the Mail bags, they roll excessively in a heavy sea.

The head-wind and sea continued with little abatement until we reached Halifax on the morning of the 4th of May, where we remained about eight hours.

I went on shore and walked through the town and neighbourhood. It is a miserable dirty place ; the houses all of wood, and

straggling in every direction ; the streets narrow and a foot deep in mud ; the lower class of the inhabitants, particularly the black population, in their appearance squalid and poverty struck, and the horses very wretched animals.

Nova Scotia, of which Halifax is the capital, has been a colony of Great Britain for about eighty years. Considerable attention has been paid during that time to its improvement in agriculture, chiefly under the auspices of societies instituted for that laudable purpose, but a rugged and generally unproductive soil has proved a great obstacle, and I could see that coastwards but little impression has been made in overcoming its natural poverty. As far as the eye could carry me, the country appeared rocky, bare, and sterile ; the timber trees all cut down, and only dwarf firs remaining ; and the land upon the whole much resembling the bleakest parts of the east coast of Scotland, to a resemblance to which the country may well owe its name.

I was amused with the local partiality of some of the principal inhabitants, which led them to endeavour to persuade me, that, poor as it seemed to me, the country was really a fine one, and some of them even went the length of assuring me, the land would carry 100 bushels or  $12\frac{1}{2}$  quarters of oats per acre !

The bay is beautiful, capable of containing the whole British navy, and the fort very strong ; and it will be recollected that it was to Halifax the British troops, and with them several thousand of the Royalist inhabitants, retired when obliged to evacuate Boston on its bombardment by General Washington in 1776.

We took our departure from Halifax about 1 P. M. of the 4th, having there left two-thirds of our passengers, who were bound for Quebec, St John's, and Montreal.

I may here observe, that we had 90 passengers in the *Britannia*, from Liverpool. The passage-money is L. 41, and no steerage passengers are allowed. This, of course, makes the company select, and accordingly I never

before met as numerous a company, strangers to each other, so agreeable and anxious to make things mutually pleasant—there was in fact not a single *black sheep* on board.

Of the captain, Cleland, I can hardly speak in terms of sufficient commendation. His tact, and anxiety to make himself acceptable to every individual, without losing sight of his proper position as commander, was the theme of general praise. For myself, I shall always retain a sense of his kindness :—It happened that I went on board at Liverpool a total stranger to every one, and consequently felt *alone* and somewhat uncomfortable. Observing this, the captain made up to me, and invited me to his cabin, and having there in the course of conversation, learnt my name, he asked if I was “ *the celebrated Captain Barclay ?*” To this I pleaded guilty ; it was soon circulated from right to left, and in the course of a very short time I knew almost every body, or at any rate almost every body *knew me*.

Notwithstanding the boisterous weather we

encountered, the constant crashing of plates, glasses, and other moveable articles, and the crowded state of the ship, I after three or four days became *seasoned*, and the time passed quickly and lightly.

## CHAPTER II.

Arrival at Boston—Town—Bunkershill—Vicinity of Boston—Farms—Roads—Population—Manners of the People.

*May 1841.*

WE had a pleasant run, of about thirty-seven hours, from Halifax to Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, the distance about 380 miles. We arrived in the harbour at 2 A. M. of the 6th, thus having made the voyage from Liverpool in fourteen days to Halifax, and fifteen days and a half to Boston. With the same weather, in a sailing vessel, we should probably have been six weeks on the passage.

At 6 A. M. I went on shore, heartily glad to find myself once more on *terra firma*. I took up my quarters at the Albion Hotel, a very comfortable house—went into a cold

bath—ate a good breakfast—and then walked through the town, which is much to be admired.

The houses are all of brick or stone, and particularly handsome ; the streets regular and clean, paved with wooden blocks, and having foot-paths about six feet wide, laid with brick, and everything proclaiming Boston to be a place of importance. The population, I understood, is now upwards of 100,000, having increased more than five-fold within the last eight-and-forty years.

From the quantity of well-fed beef and mutton I saw in the butchers' market, I inferred that the land about Boston must be good, and feeding well understood. The fish and poultry markets were also excellent, and, in short, there appeared to be in Boston no want of the good things of this world.

On Friday the 7th, I drove eight or ten miles into the country, and visited Bunkers-hill where a monument, designed to be 280 feet high, is erecting of granite, to commemorate the battle fought there in the beginning



of the war of independence. The country through which I passed, and as far beyond as the eye could reach, was extremely fine, studded with farm-houses built of wood, roofed with blue shingles in the form of slates, and gaily whitened. These houses, I was told, will last 150 years.

The farms seldom exceed from 100 to 300 acres, and they are all occupied by the proprietors. The fields are small, and enclosed with rude stone dikes. From the opportunity I had I could not well judge of the quality of the soil, but the grass lands were evidently only recovering from the effects of a severe winter, and vegetation seemed more backward than in Britain.

I could not discover any appearance of a regular system of farming. The implements of husbandry were clumsy and uncouth. Oxen, seemingly of the large red Sussex breed, appeared to be chiefly used in agriculture, but from the lateness of the season and the want of keep, no stock was to be seen in the fields. In Boston they have an active well-bred sort

of horse, chiefly used in buggies, which I was told is reared in New England, and fetches a price as high as forty or fifty guineas. I was assured the proprietor of a farm of the size I have noticed, lives in a comfortable style, equal to that of a Scotch *laird* of from L. 500 to L. 1000 a-year, and, from the appearance of the dwellings, I had no doubt of it.

No attention is paid to the roads, which are full of holes sufficient to shake any sort of carriage to pieces. There are no turnpikes nor any fund for maintaining the roads. This, it is obvious, must operate as a great drag in the business of agriculture, and one is surprised to find an enlightened people like that of Massachusetts, not more alive to the fact that the value of land is incalculably enhanced by good roads of internal communication.\*

\* It should not, however, be forgotten, that, fifty years ago, the roads in Scotland were generally not in a much better condition than those in Massachusetts. Within that period the rent of land has greatly increased, being now, in most instances, more than three times the former amount. This is due, in a great measure, to the improvement of the land, consequent on the opening of

Within a circuit of twenty miles round Boston, the population, comprised in towns, villages, and numberless farm-houses, is extremely dense, and, including that of Boston itself, is said to exceed 200,000, forming altogether, an intelligent, enterprising, and thriving people.

It was here I began to observe that very distorted descriptions of American manners are indulged in by some of our travellers. I am not sure that in that matter a comparison would be favourable, generally speaking, to my own country ;—at all events, I can with truth say that I met with much polite attention in Boston, and regretted it was not in my power to prolong my stay there.

new roads and the melioration of the old ones, the farmer in Scotland being now accommodated in respect of roads, better perhaps than his brethren in any other part of the United Kingdom.

## CHAPTER III.

Departure from Boston—Country to Stonington—New York—Haarlem—American mode of driving in gigs—Long Island—Staten Island—Inattention to husbandry—Cause of it—Field for enterprising farmers—Domestic economy in New York—Hospitality—Departure.

*May 1841.*

AT 4 P. M. of the 8th of May I left Boston for New York, proceeding first by the railway to Stonington in Connecticut, and thence in the steam-boat to New York, where I arrived at 6 o'clock the following morning, the whole distance being about 250 miles.

The country through which we passed to Stonington is, near the railway, low and marshy ; higher up it is rough and stony, and covered with copse and young pines, the timber trees having evidently been all cut down

for use. This was invariably the feature of the country, with here and there a patch of fifty or sixty acres taken in from the woods and improved. The fields are small, poor in soil, and enclosed with rough stone dikes. After quitting the railway I had not an opportunity of seeing the country between Stonington and New York.

I now found myself in a magnificent city containing about 300,000 inhabitants—the streets spacious, particularly the foot-paths, which appear to be double the width of those even in the more modern parts of London—the Broadway, three miles in length, and many of the other streets one and two miles. All is activity and bustle, and here, with the English language in his ears, and a general English appearance in his view, one may easily fancy himself in London.

The streets are quite as much crowded as those in London with foot-passengers ; and the shops are large and elegant, but there is not the same crowd of carriages, waggons, carts, or other vehicles, and there are but few

gentlemen's carriages to be seen. But agricultural matters being the more immediate objects of my attention, I abstain from attempting any particular description of New York, which, indeed, is too well known to render such an endeavour on my part necessary.

In the afternoon I drove out with my friend Mr George Barclay to Haarlem, distant from New York nine miles,—the intervening space being, however, one continued street. I was much amused with the number of gigs and buggies on the road, all with fast trotters in strong competition, and some of them going a tremendous pace. They are driven with a straight iron bit, on which the horse lays all his weight, the charioteer holding a rein in each hand with an immense strain on his arms, totally opposed to our system, and, I should think, to comfort.

On the 11th of May I crossed over to Long Island where I walked several hours. This island is 160 miles long and 18 broad. It is the garden of New York, rich in soil, highly

cultivated, picturesquely diversified with hill and dale, and covered with villages, villas, and farm-houses; but I could not discover that the land is under any regular system of agriculture, or that, with all the advantages it possesses, in the quality of soil and proximity to the New York market, any effort is used to make the most of them.

Next day I crossed over to Staten Island, distant from New York nine miles. This island, about forty miles in circumference, is like Long Island, beautiful and picturesque. I drove over a considerable part of it, and found large tracts of rich meadow land applied to comparatively little profitable use. They mow a considerable part of the meadows, but I saw very little stock—no sheep—and such cattle as were to be seen were of the most heterogeneous breeds, bad Lancashires, Scotch, and Welsh, no two bearing the least appearance of consanguinity. Wheat and Indian corn are grown in small patches. The farming implements are of a rude and awkward description; and, in a word, here is a fine tract of land which;

as regards the matter of agriculture, is almost neglected.

The cause of this neglect is obvious:—In the neighbourhood of New York, in Long Island, and also in Staten Island, the land is occupied chiefly by mercantile people. Commerce engrosses their time and attention, and agriculture is with them of secondary consideration, seemingly as little understood as cared for. Much, therefore, might be done here by enterprising men, capable of introducing and keeping up a proper breed of stock, and resolved as well as qualified to follow a British system of agriculture. Or, as these Islands command the New York market, much of the land might be turned to great account by converting it into market gardens for the supply of that city. But in this case, and perhaps in both, it would be necessary to bring from Britain skilful hands and suitable implements. In both Islands there is an ample supply of stone and timber.

In quitting New York, I feel it incumbent on me to observe, that in every family I visit-



ed, I found the same comforts and correct domestic economy as in the first families in Britain—their servants equally respectful and well bred, and certainly void of any approach to that vulgarity and improper freedom with accounts of which some travellers amuse their readers.

My acknowledgements for great kindness and hospitality are due to my relatives Messrs George and Anthony Barclay, as well as to Friend Mott and his delightful family circle, in all of whom I found *friends indeed*. From the Messrs Barclay I obtained useful information as to the state of the country and my future progress ; and on the 14th of May I bade adieu for a time to New York.

## CHAPTER IV.

Sail up the Hudson—Red-Hook—Mr Henry Barclay's estate—System of farming followed there—He now intends to grant improving leases—Advantage of his locality—Voyage up the Hudson continued—Arrival at Albany—Mr Southam—His farm—His stock—Situation and population of Albany—American hospitality—Episcopal chapel—Observance of Sabbath and religious duties—Inspection of Mr Southam's stock—Mr Renton's stock—Sheep—Soil round Albany—Kentucky farmers—Their farming—Disadvantage of their distance from market—Their purchase of stock—Stock suitable for them.

*May 1841.*

FROM New York I enjoyed the great beauty of the sail up the Hudson, 116 miles, to Red-Hook. We passed what is styled the Highlands, a bold picturesque and rocky shore, winding through mountains covered with wood, and having beyond them a rich cultivated country extending far into the interior.

From Red-Hook I crossed over to the residence of Mr Henry Barclay who has purchased a considerable estate on the opposite shore, and named it *Ury*. I was kindly received by Mr Barclay, who has resided fifteen years at Ury, where he has founded a town, now containing 2000 inhabitants, erected paper and cotton mills, and altogether laid out a large sum which he informs me is making him a handsome return.

His residence is about six miles from the Catskill mountains, a range in form not unlike the Grampians, though more stupendous, and for the most part covered with pine trees and huge rocks. He says a country lies between him and the Catskill range, which is well cultivated. But on his own estate I observed the same objectionable system of agriculture I have already noticed ;—no attention is paid to stock, and no leases are granted, the tenants holding from year to year, and being allowed to crop the land as they choose. He is now, however, quite aware of the advantages he would derive from an enterprising tenantry

conversant with a proper mode of husbandry, and would willingly grant to persons of that description favourable leases for a term of years ; and, as his estate is situate within seven hours sail of the New York market, a grand field is here laid open for agricultural emigrants from Britain.

On the 15th, about 2 P. M. I resumed my voyage up the Hudson, in the steamer for Albany, distant fifty miles. The shore on both sides continues bold and rocky, but beyond, as far as the eye can reach, it travels over a country rich in enclosed fields, woods, and villas.

Arriving at Albany at 6 o'clock, I was met on board by a Mr Southam from Oxfordshire, who has been in the country three or four years, and occupies a farm of 300 acres about ninety miles from Albany, which, lying quite out of my route, I was not able to visit, and this I the less regretted as I understood it is still in a very rough state, and does not yet fully exhibit the effects of subjection to the English mode of management. Mr Southam

has been a large importer of Durham and Hereford cattle, particularly the latter, which he considers better adapted for this country, although on this point I have difficulty in coinciding with him.

Albany, a neat clean town, containing about 30,000 inhabitants, is pleasantly situate on the banks of the Hudson, and commands, on both sides of the river, an extensive view over a fertile country interspersed with thriving towns and villages.

The hospitality of America, to which I cannot too often allude, was here again experienced by me in several of the first families in the place, particularly in those of Mr Rhodes and Mr Corner, the latter of whom had been my fellow-passenger in the *Britannia*. These gentlemen are both engaged in trade, and nothing could exceed the comforts of their houses and establishments.

On Sunday the 16th I attended an Episcopal place of worship—neatly fitted up and commodious—as much so as most churches in London ; the service much the same as in the

Established English church, the sermon excellent, and the congregation of respectable appearance. From the little I had seen, and all I had heard, it appeared that here and elsewhere the people in America are correct observers of the Sabbath and attentive to the duties of religion. In Albany there is also a Presbyterian church, and several others of different persuasions.

Next day, I inspected Mr Southam's imported stock which, his farm not being in a fit state to receive them, he keeps within three miles of Albany. I accordingly saw a herd of about twenty Hereford cows, all tied up, and in fair condition ; one very superior three years old Durham heifer ; and some good Berkshire pigs. The Herefords seemed very good, but I do not pretend to much knowledge of that breed.

I also visited a neighbouring gentleman, a Mr Prentice, who has a herd of about twenty Durham cows, which, for the most part, he had imported, and also three Durham bulls. His cows were tolerable, but he decidedly

had not gone to the fountain head for his bulls, as one of them was a coarse ungainly animal, and the other two evidently spurious.

Hitherto, I had not had an opportunity of seeing any sheep. I now saw a small flock of Merino ewes belonging to Mr Southam, which he proposes to cross with the Cotswold. The Merinos are ugly unsightly animals, but I was told they are universally preferred throughout the States.

Round Albany, the soil is sandy and poor, requiring much manure to make it productive. I could not discover that any better system of agriculture was followed here, than I had observed in other places.

I here met with two Kentucky farmers, with whom I had a good deal of conversation regarding the objects of my enquiry. They mentioned that their soil is of the richest description — that they can, without manure, raise wheat and Indian corn, crop after crop, *ad infinitum*, but, being 1000 miles from markets, chiefly overland, grain, beyond what is required for their own consumpt, is to them

nearly valueless, so much so, that they drive large herds of cattle into their fine fields of Indian corn, to feed upon it and beat it down as they may ; after which the land is ploughed for a wheat crop.

In these circumstances, the Kentucky farmers confine their attention chiefly to grazing cattle, and for this purpose have adopted the Durham breed ; but having, after they are fed, to drive them so great a distance as 1000 miles to market, they find the cattle of that heavy breed reduced to mere shadows at the end of their journey ; consequently, the animals which leave Kentucky perfectly fat, must, when they reach New York, be sold as lean stock, and that, probably, of the worst description.

The farmers of Kentucky, therefore, now think of changing to a breed of cattle *that will carry their beef along with them*, and this quality they expect to find in the Herefords. With that impression, they gave Mr Southam a price equal to 100 guineas for one of his cows, and, by the by, at the same time, paid him as much as sixty guineas for a Berkshire sow.



I fear they will find themselves mistaken and disappointed in the Herefords, and I am convinced that in their circumstances they would reap greater advantage by importing Angus or Aberdeenshire *Doddies*, which are kindred breeds of well-formed, moderate-sized, active animals — or perhaps still better, the small and peculiarly symmetrical West-Highland cow — and to cross these with a short-horn or Durham bull.

The West-Highlander possesses all the points of a good feeder, and being hardy and active as a deer, would suffer little from being driven even 1000 miles. In its native glens it may feed to twenty or twenty-five stones Amsterdam, but the heifers on being transplanted to a rich and sheltered pasture attain to nearly double that weight. I have proved this by introducing a herd of forty West-Highland heifers on my own farm at Ury, (not the *American Ury*), where they have been crossed with my short-horn bulls, and the experiment on repeated trials has been attended with great success ; for while the mothers by removal to a

more nutritious pasture have greatly increased in size, the cross has produced strong and handsome animals, kindly feeders, rising to a great weight and fetching high prices.

The Kentucky grazier, occupying pastures of the richest kind and enjoying mild winters, would I think be well-advised in adopting the same plan,—of course observing that if it can be avoided, the produce of the cross should not be bred from, it being well-known that the progeny of hybrids turn out to be coarse and unprofitable stock. There is no reason to doubt that such a cross *would carry their beef along with them*, from Kentucky to New York, in the same way that, before steam navigation was invented, fat cattle were often driven from Scotland to London, a distance of 500 or 600 miles, with no perceptible loss of weight or condition.\*

\* In corroboration of the advice given in the text, to the Kentucky farmer, and also as affording a proof of the advantage to be derived from attention to the breeding of stock generally, the writer hopes he may be excused for referring to the following notice taken by the news-

papers, of his annual sale of stock in October 1841 : “ Captain Barclay of Ury’s annual sale of pure short-horn bull calves,—half-bred yearling heifers and steers, a cross between a short-horn bull and pure Argyleshire cows—and pure bred Leicester sheep, came off on the 7th instant, and was, as usual, numerous and respectably attended. The sale commenced with the short-horn bull calves, and after a spirited bidding, the first was knocked down at seventy-five guineas, the price of the others ranging from thirty to fifty guineas, and the average price of the whole being about L.45 a piece. There was also a keen competition for the yearling half-bred steers and heifers, which brought an average price of about L. 12 a head. After the sale, the captain entertained his friends at dinner, and the evening was spent in a very happy manner. The average (of the bull calves) this year is three guineas a head higher than any former year.”

With the same view, and not without a feeling of he trusts pardonable pride and satisfaction, he would refer to the newspaper report of a public dinner to which, on a late occasion, his neighbours and friends did him the honour to invite him, in compliment to his exertions in the cause of agriculture ; and, as the report is too long to be inserted in a note, it is given as an appendix to this publication.

## CHAPTER V.

Departure from Albany — Country to Utica — Fences common in New York State — From Utica to Syracuse — Auburn — Departure for Canandaigua — Description of American stage-coach — Geneva — Arrival at Canandaigua — Mr Greig — Evening at his house — Departure for Geneseo.

*May 1841.*

ON the 18th, I left Albany by the railway for Auburn distant about 200 miles. For about twenty miles from the former place, the soil is light and sandy ; after that it improves to Utica, exhibiting the same rich appearance I had before remarked. The fields seem well cleared and are all enclosed, bearing crops of wheat, Indian corn and clovers, or lying in pastures ; but still there is an absence of those improved modes of agricultural practice for which the soil and climate are so well adapted

and which would so greatly conduce to the farmer's advantage.

As far as I had yet travelled, and as I understand throughout the state of New York, no hedges are to be seen. Here enclosures are rudely formed with what in the eyes of a native of Britain seems a waste of timber; log is piled over log to the height of seven or eight feet, and a fence thus formed I am told lasts about ten years.

From Utica to Syracuse the railway traverses forests of gigantic oak, elm, sugar-maple, and other kinds of timber. Great exertions appear to be making to clear the land, the railway having opened up these immense forests to agricultural enterprise.

At Auburn, a very pretty town, I remained all night, and left it by the stage next morning for Canandaigua, a journey of forty miles. This was the first trial I had had of an American stage-coach, and I sincerely hope it may be the last, until the means of conducting them with the infliction of less torture on passengers be devised, as certainly a more

abominable conveyance than this vehicle, or roads more abominable than those it was dragged over, can hardly be imagined.

The American stage-coach is a most ungainly vehicle, carrying nine insides, three on a front seat, three on a back seat, and three on a bench hung in the middle; instead of panels, it has oil-skin curtains to shut down at night; its body is something in the form of a boat, resting on strong leather slings instead of steel springs, which indeed would not stand a mile on their roads; it consequently dances in the air like a balloon, giving a certain kind of variety to the monotony of a journey. The coachman sits on a bench, considerably lower than the top of the coach, and lower even than the horses, and there being no pad-terrets the reins dangle loose and afford no command of the horses; but then they are so admirably broken that, although fine high-spirited animals, they regulate their pace instantly *at his call*. Each man drives a twelve or fifteen mile stage, and what much surprised me, pulls up every four

or five miles and gives his horses an *ad libitum* dose of water. Including the long delays in changing horses, dining, breakfasting, &c. the average speed does not exceed four miles an hour. The *coachees* are paid by the proprietors at the rate of twelve dollars per month and receive no fee from passengers ; and this latter is the rule also with all public servants in the States, as in hotels, steam-boats, and railways.

My anticipations, it may be supposed, were none of the most pleasurable, when in one of the vehicles I have endeavoured to describe, I found myself placed beside eight large men and a child. For a time I submitted to threatened suffocation added to the risk of dislocated joints, but soon finding my position no longer endurable I tried what effect the offer of a fee would have in inducing the American *coachee* to favour me with a seat beside himself ; for *outsiders*, no doubt from a regard for people's bones, are not here encouraged. A fee had the same virtue with him as it has in such quarters in other parts of the world,

and accordingly I mounted the bench, beside the driver whom I found of an injocose and taciturn class, thankful enough for information as to foreign modes but not themselves of a communicative turn.

I still however underwent a course of excruciating jolting, and was exposed to continual danger of dislocation of my joints, or of being pitched off; but I enjoyed the free air of Heaven, and what to me was for the time of more importance, a full view of the country than which nothing can be imagined more beautiful. Composed of alternating hill and dale it strongly reminded me of the most admired parts of Northamptonshire; but although all cleared and enclosed, the land evidently is mismanaged and much of its intrinsic value thereby lost.

We changed horses at Geneva, twenty-three miles from Auburn and delightfully situate on the lake of that name, forty miles in length and three in breadth. It is surrounded by a country possessing that indescribable beauty and rich-



ness which characterize the finest districts of this part of America.

Continuing our progress through the same description of country, I arrived about six o'clock at Canandaigua.

Forty or fifty years ago Mr Greig, a Scotsman, came over to manage the great Pultney estates in this neighbourhood. He is now himself a man of large fortune and an extensive land-owner, living at Canandaigua in a mansion truly magnificent as well in external appearance as in what relates to interior furnishing and decoration; and what is better, the owner is universally respected as one in whom great benevolence, the most generous sentiments, and perfect integrity are combined with an excellent judgment.

To this gentleman I had a letter of introduction from my friend George Barclay of New York, which I having sent up, Mr Greig in a short time came himself in his phaeton to take me to his house. I saw at once that he was all that had been represented to me, his countenance beaming with kindness and intel-

ligence, and which to me was not a little interesting, he retains to this day his native accent in all its purity, which, I confess, sounded sweetly to my ear in this land of strangers.

Unfortunately for me, Mr Greig who has this year been elected a member to Congress for his own district, had fixed to-morrow for his departure for Washington, so that his time was greatly occupied and I was deprived of an opportunity of acquiring much information which I expected to receive from him. Still I had some interesting conversation with him regarding his locality, in the course of which I learnt that forty years ago the whole of the surrounding country for hundreds of miles, was one impenetrable forest, and that then not a stone existed of the town of Canandaigua now containing several thousand wealthy inhabitants.

Several of Mr Greig's neighbours were assembled at his house, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, and among them a Mr Renton an Ayrshire man who had settled near this seven years ago. Upon the whole I passed a

most agreeable evening at Mr Greig's, where everything bore the marks of affluence, elegance and comfort.

Next morning I breakfasted at Mr Renton's and there experienced the frank hospitality of the country. Being as it seemed no farmer, he makes the most of his land by selling small allotments for building.

Having as I felt had quite enough of an American stage-coach, I hired a phaeton to convey me to Geneseo, distant thirty miles, and accordingly about three o'clock P. M. I left Canandaigua.

## CHAPTER VI.

Arrival at Geneseo—Mr Wordsworth—His extensive landed property—Colonel Wordsworth's farm—His stock—His flock—No green crops—Treatment of stock in winter—His rotation of crops—Remarks on his system—Mr Wordsworth's tenantry—Aversion to granting leases — Agricultural horses — American plough—Labourer's wages and hours—Col. Wordsworth's establishment of labourers—Geneseo flats—Price of land—Militia General.

*May 1841.*

I arrived at Geneseo about nine o'clock in the evening of the 20th, having found the country as I came along, a continuation of the enchanting scenery I had previously passed through.

Next morning I called on Mr Wordsworth, one of the largest if not the most extensive land-owner in the State of New York,

to whom I had brought a letter of introduction. He lives in a fine house exactly resembling that of an English squire, picturesquely situate on a rising ground and commanding views similar in character and not excelled in beauty by the prospects from Richmond Hill or Windsor Castle. His family consists of two sons and a daughter, one of the former married and residing about a mile off; the other son and the young lady living with their father.

When I called the family were from home, but in a few hours Colonel Wordsworth, the younger son, visited me and in a most open and kind manner pressingly invited me to take up my residence at his father's house, an invitation which I accepted.

I found the elder Mr Wordsworth the very *beau ideal* of a fine old English country gentleman; tall and graceful in person, and in manners courteous, affable, and hospitable. In all the young ladies of the States, to whom it had hitherto been my good fortune to be introduced, I had remarked an amiable complai-

sance which I regret to say a stranger rarely meets with on a first introduction to my fair countrywomen, who in *their* reception of strangers, are from education and habit apt to assume a false and repulsive dignity, while an American lady on a similar occasion displays, with high polish, a frankness and cordiality extremely grateful to one's feelings and leading him at once to fancy himself among old friends. Such on my introduction to Miss Wordsworth, were the qualities I found her in an eminent degree to possess, and with them uniting great beauty and accomplishment.

Mr Wordsworth's property comprises about forty miles of country, the richness and picturesque appearance of which it is impossible in adequate terms to describe. Of this property Colonel Wordsworth occupies 1600 acres, 1000 of which, in the Genesee flats, are alluvial meadow land equal to any in the vales of Aylesbury and Buckingham. This portion of land he keeps in old pasture, laid out in divisions of from 60 to 100 acres each. The

remainder of the farm is upland and under a rotation of crops, affording the first specimen of anything approaching to systematic husbandry I had seen since I entered the States.

His stock comprehends 400 cattle, steers, heifers and bulls, and about 2000 sheep of the Merino breed, and I could not but regret seeing land so valuable covered with stock of so inferior a description.

The red breed of cattle which I had seen all over the State of New York, Colonel Wordsworth informs me are considered to be Devons. If so they are much degenerated, being of diminutive size, coarse, and evidently bad feeders, averaging not more than from 25 to 30 stones.

Colonel Wordsworth's young stock are partly bred by himself or bought in at one year old for about 25s. a head ; they seem starved and stunted in their growth, and as miserable in appearance as the worst stock on the bleak sides of our Grampian hills, and yet were depasturing land of a quality equal to what with

us in Scotland might bring a rent of L. 5 per acre.

He has two or three Durham bulls for crossing, but they are so low in condition and so disfigured—appearing as if scalded with hot water—that it is impossible to judge of their properties. He also crosses with half-bred bulls, and the consequence is a heterogeneous mixture which it would puzzle a Wetherell to analyse.

His system is to sell his cattle in the fall, when they are three or four years old, at the New York market distant 300 miles, where they fetch a price equal to L. 8 or L. 10 a head.

He raises no green crops, with the exception of a few acres of potatoes and mangel wurzel. Turnips he says cannot be raised with them, being all cut off with the fly ; but to the cultivation of that valuable root I could discover here no physical impediment which might not be overcome by skilful management.

He mows annually about 500 acres of his meadow land, and the hay made from it is the



sole dependence of his stock throughout the winter. But his farm buildings are not at all adequate to the requirements of such a farm, and his stock in winter is foddered in the open fields, where the animals must well nigh starve, there being neither hedge nor shelter of any kind to mitigate the severity of the cold. This practice, in which the Colonel is not singular, but which on the contrary is a very general one, may well account for their miserable appearance, as it is not easy otherwise to explain why cattle fed on good meadow hay, should at the end of winter be found in such a condition ; and this too happens in a country where timber is a drug, and hovels might be run up in every direction at little expense.

His flock as mentioned are all Merinos, or are so styled, and their value consists chiefly in their wool, little account being had of the carcase which at three or four years old brings only from 8s. to 10s. The weight of fleece is 3 lb. which sells at 2s. of our money per pound, each sheep thus yielding for wool 6s. per annum.

Colonel Wordsworth has also a dairy of sixty cows which he lets out to a tenant who manages the establishment, making the cheese and butter and paying to the Colonel 20s. for each cow, besides a proportion of the produce in kind. It need hardly be remarked that the quantity of milk yielded by a cow left night and day to shiver in the open air in the rigour of an American winter, must be very trifling, not certainly one-third of what she might give under proper shelter.

The rotation of crops followed on the arable farm are wheat and clover alternately—that is, wheat is sown in autumn, and amongst it clover is sown in spring; the clover remains until the second summer, neither mowed nor pastured, but ploughed in for manure and then wheat is again sown in autumn. This is the only manuring the land receives; for as the cattle are all foddered in winter on the meadow, the straw is either burnt, or piled up in large masses to rot and waste under the influence of the weather.

That this is a most improvident mode of

agriculture, will at once occur to every person acquainted with the principles of good farming ; indeed it must create infinite surprise that the advantages to be found in a right system of convertible husbandry, should at this time of day be as a *terra incognita* to the otherwise enterprising American cultivator ; for it is proper to observe that in describing Colonel Wordsworth's practice, I relate what takes place generally over the States.

Were Colonel Wordsworth to alter his mode only so far as to provide the means of consuming his straw by foddering in the yard in winter, and his clover by soiling with it in summer, his cattle might be brought to double their present value at the time he sends them to market ; and his land being manured with a due allowance of farm-yard-dung thus obtained, might carry nearly double the crop of wheat it now produces, which notwithstanding the great natural fertility of the soil averages only from twenty-five to thirty bushels an acre.

Mr Wordsworth has a numerous tenantry, but under a tenure which can yield neither profit to the landlord nor benefit to themselves; they have no leases, but plough and sow from year to year, the landlord receiving for rent a portion of the produce in kind. His portion is ascertained on the field after the crop is reaped, and is delivered by the tenants at an appointed barn where it is instantly thrashed out and the straw given to the winds.

Such a system must be a bar to every improvement; it in fact operates as a *prohibition* of all exertion and expenditure by the tenant for encreasing the fertility of his farm, it being unreasonable to expect that any tenant will use exertions or lay out capital, where the landlord is to reap, certainly a large share of the benefit thence accruing, and from the precariousness of the tenure perhaps the whole. Mr Wordsworth therefore may go on to draw his share of the pittance of grain which his tenants may under present circumstances be able or disposed to raise, but he must lay his account that in these circumstances nothing

can be done by them to improve the soil and render it duly productive.

In agricultural business it is well known there are two extremes ; at the one extreme is placed the reckless speculator who catches at every new theory however visionary ; at the other, he with whom a sufficient reason for avoiding every improvement however much recommended by experience, is just that it is an interference with old rules and habits. Now, although Mr Wordsworth is an acute well informed man who must have seen well and far before him, having at an early period made an extensive purchase of land at a price greatly under the value to which time and circumstances have raised it, yet it appears to me he is much wedded to old customs, otherwise he would at once perceive the advantage of dividing his estate into farms of a proper size, erecting on them suitable buildings, and granting leases for such a term of years as would ensure to the tenants a return for money expended on improvements. By similar means and by establishing and stipulating for judicious

modes of culture, the value of land in Scotland has in my own time been tripled ; and I have no doubt that by adopting them the value of Mr Wordsworth's property would be increased in the same ratio ; but I was unable by this argument or by any other to persuade him to change his system of tenancy.

Here and throughout the States the agricultural horses are light and blood-like, and I greatly admired the excellent control which they and the agricultural oxen are under regulating all their motions with great alacrity by the word of command ; but the horses appear too slender, and a cross with the Suffolk, Clydesdale, or heavy Lincolns, would in my opinion make a great improvement.

The plough here is similar to that generally used in Scotland, but much lighter and also shorter both in the beam and in the *stilts* or handles, a difference rendered necessary for avoiding the stumps standing in the fields—the remains of the ancient forests of which few of the uplands are entirely cleared ; these stumps are three or four feet high, and being

all hard-woods decay, as I was informed, in a few years sufficiently to admit of their being torn out.

They plough with two horses abreast and it is said a pair of horses generally plough two acres a-day, but the furrow is ebb, not generally more than two or three inches. There are no carts, the agricultural carriage being a light waggon with a pole, drawn by two horses abreast.

The average rate of labourer's wages is about three shillings of our money per diem with board and lodging. The hours of labour are from sunrise to sunset ; all the crops are mowed, and a man mows of wheat from two to three acres and of red clover when clover hay happens to be made, two acres per diem.

Colonel Wordsworth's regular establishment consists of twenty men, and this he finds sufficient for his large farm ; they are boarded and lodged in a commodious farm-house. He has no difficulty in getting what additional hands are required in harvest time ; and professional sheep-shearers attend at the proper

season and are paid by the piece, generally accomplishing the shearing of his flock of 2000 sheep in the course of one week, but from the description I had of it the work is but roughly done.

Having on the first day of my sojourn here inspected Colonel Wordsworth's farm, I rode out with him again on the 22d, and took a circuit of twenty miles over this enchanting country of upland and meadow, already one of the most beautiful and only requiring a proper application of agricultural skill to be rendered one of the most productive in the world. As conveying some idea of the vigorous vegetation the soil is capable of sustaining, I may mention that in the course of our ride I saw in Colonel Wordsworth's meadows an oak tree which I measured and found to be fifteen yards in circumference near the ground.

The Genesee flats, of which as already observed these meadows are a portion, are 100 miles in length and from three to four in breadth, thus perhaps exceeding in extent any continuous tract of equally fertile land in



any country. Two desirable estates which are for sale were pointed out to me ; one of 300 acres, the other of 500, with a capital mansion-house and orchards on each, and I was told the price of such land in this locality ranges from L. 10 to L. 20 an acre.

I had to-day the honour of an introduction to a General of militia, who for the present—and long may he do so!—occupies himself in the peaceful pursuits of farming, and certainly has nothing *very* military in his appearance. He had been employed for two years in feeding two oxen, for competition at a coming agricultural show ; they are of the red or Devon breed, and may weigh each from sixty to seventy stones of 14 lb. ; but although the General seemed to have directed his whole energy to the feeding of these beasts, and for his own part regarded them as perfect wonders, they were after all not better than what on any Scotch farm would be called “good fat.”

On Sunday the 23d of May, I attended an Episcopal church—a very creditable building for a country town—in which service was respectably performed.

I afterwards dined at the house of Mr James Wordsworth. His lady is from Philadelphia and of a family originally of the Society of Friends. She has the gentle and amiable manner peculiar to the female part of that excellent people, and also no small share of what their simple costume proves,

Needs not the foreign aid of ornament.

Mr James Wordsworth farms extensively, but as his farm lies at a considerable distance, I was obliged to forego the gratification of visiting it.

After dinner, however, I once more accompanied his brother in a ride over his farm, and was in consequence the more confirmed in my first opinion, that with an improved breed of stock and a better system of husbandry, he might double or triple the value of it.

In the evening I learnt, in the course of conversation with the elder Mr Wordsworth, that in the neighbourhood of Caledonia, a town about eleven miles off, the settlers are entirely Scotch, and as I found that locality was not much out of my route, I determined to visit it.

## CHAPTER VII.

Departure from Geneseo—Caledonia—Mr Newbold's farm and stock—Thunder storm—Mr Macnaughton's farm—Instance of rapid rise in price of land—Scotch families at Caledonia—Arrived with small capital—Now independent.

*May 1841.*

ON the 24th I terminated my visit at the hospitable mansion of Mr Wordsworth, and left it deeply indebted to him and his family for the most polite attention and kindness, and with the pleasing hope of meeting and renewing our acquaintance at New York in the end of June.

Colonel Wordsworth drove me to breakfast at the house of a friend of his near Caledonia, a Mr Newbold, a young man who in connection with a Mr Roy farms extensively.

After breakfast, which was sumptuous and

ample as all American breakfasts are, I inspected Mr Newbold's farm-offices which are proportionally larger and more commodious than any I had yet seen, and include a thrashing-mill moved by water—but still they are not on what, in Scotland, would be considered a proper scale, or properly laid out.

We then drove out to his farm which consists of fine rich meadow land on the Genesee flats. His stock is of a better kind and in much better condition than Colonel Wordsworth's. I saw a very good Durham bull, several Durham cows and heifers, and crosses of these with the native breed, the quality of which latter distinctly proved the vast improvement of the stock here, that may be made by judicious crossing.

Our perambulation was, however, suddenly interrupted by a violent thunder storm which drove us back. For the first ten days after my arrival at Boston, the weather had been cold and very backward for the season, none of the forest trees being yet in leaf. For the last few days it had become hot and sultry,

the thermometer in the shade ranging from 70° to 80°. I did not, however, feel any of the oppression which, with the same degree of heat, I should have suffered in our own country.

The storm continuing, we took an early dinner, and I was regaled unexpectedly enough with some excellent Scotch whisky. When it cleared we drove to the farm of a Mr Macnaughton, who was in his fields when we arrived, but soon returned, and was delighted to meet me, a countryman of his own. He is a hardy looking Highlander, about sixty years of age, from Lord Breadalbane's country. He came to America fifteen years ago, with a small capital, and now he possesses 500 acres of the best wheat-land, all cleared and his own property.

He showed me a field of sixty acres of wheat, and mentioned in connection with it, a circumstance furnishing a striking instance of the rapid rise of the value of land in this quarter. Soon after his arrival a neighbour wished to purchase this field of him, and he

accordingly parted with it for 900 dollars, which was considered the full value of it. In the course of three years his neighbour determined on selling the whole of his property, and offered back this field to Donald, but now at the price of 3000 dollars ; this he at once agreed to give ; a bargain was struck accordingly, and the first crop of wheat yielded the purchase money.

Donald's whole establishment smacks strongly of the Highlander. His domestic arrangements include none of the delicacies and but a sparing allowance of the comforts of life ; in short, he appears to be as much a scorner of luxury as his stalwart countryman of old who indignantly kicked away the snow-ball which, in their *bivouac*, his too effeminate son had prepared for his pillow.

In his farming economy he has improved nothing on what he found to be the practice of the country :—one large barn receives his crops and accommodates his horses and cattle, and like others he burns his straw and ploughs in his clover for manure ; yet Donald has

made money and continues to make it. What might not be accomplished under a more rational system?

Limestone abounds here, but is not, as far as I could learn, made use of in cultivating land, and perhaps it is not necessary it should, as the soil may already contain sufficiency of calcareous earth. Stone dikes enclose the fields and are neatly built as in Scotland.

The storm having long detained us, I had it not in my power to visit any other of the Scotch farm-houses, but proceeded to Caledonia, a considerable town with two hotels.

Here I procured an interview with a Scotsman, from whom I learnt that 250 Scotch families are settled in this neighbourhood; the greater part of them came over forty years ago with very little capital, many of them with hardly sufficient to purchase a yoke of oxen; they all got wealthy and now they own farms varying from 200 to 600 acres each. According to my informant, the mode of farming among these settlers, does not differ from that followed by Mr Macnaughton,

and he, I have already noticed, plods on in the imperfect course common in the country.

I also learnt that, no doubt from the calcareous nature of the soil, the land here is peculiarly adapted to wheat which at present sells at from four to five shillings of English money per bushel of 60 lb.



## CHAPTER VIII.

Departure from Caledonia—Batavia—Description of an American Hotel—Lockport—Visit to Falls of Niagara—Lewiston—Arrival at Toronto, Capital of Upper Canada.

AT Caledonia I took leave of my kind friend, Colonel Wordsworth, and having brought a phaeton from Geneseo, I set out for Batavia, distant seventeen miles, at six o'clock of the afternoon. The road passes through a fine corn country, all on limestone and enclosed with substantial stone dikes, but more rugged than any I had yet seen.

About nine o'clock I arrived at Batavia, and having determined next day to take the phaeton on to Lockport, distant thirty-three miles, put up for the night at a grand-looking hotel, which I found greatly infested with bugs. It is not, however, from the irritation

these bed-fellows occasioned me, that I am led here to notice, that the interior of an American hotel may be in woful contrast with its external appearance.

In most towns there are to be seen two or three hotels of much outward show, promising great things within, but, entering any one of them, you find the accommodation consists of what is called a bar, being just a large tap-room, thronged with people of all descriptions, and a great hall in which there is every day an ordinary at fixed hours—breakfast usually at seven, dinner at one, and supper at five o'clock. This hall not only is the eating-room of strangers, but is frequented by a great proportion of the town's people, who certainly dispatch every meal with wonderful celerity and instantly depart. Private parlours there are none; and if you wish to be alone, you must sit in your bedroom, but unless with much difficulty and grudging, you can be served with nothing away from the ordinary; for as the business of the house centres there and in the bar, no attention is willingly paid anywhere

else. Mine host himself is seldom visible, and the waiters attend to your orders so tardily and with so much of the appearance of indifference, that you are strongly tempted to accelerate their movements by a certain application of your foot. However, by putting a restraint on my temper, which I confess I at first managed with some difficulty, I found that I ultimately got what I wanted.

Next day, the 25th, I proceeded on my journey to Lockport, the country gradually lessening in attractiveness, the quantity of cleared land being comparatively small, and the proportion of forest consequently greater than in the country I had just left.

From Lockport I passed by the railway to the Falls of Niagara, the distance being twenty-four miles ; and on the 26th, I crossed over to the Canadian side to behold these amazing works of nature, of the grandeur of which descriptions are familiar to every reader.

I have only to observe that on viewing them, I sensibly experienced the disappointment usually attending the actual sight of any

remarkable object regarding which previous accounts have given rise to unbounded expectations. No doubt the whole body of a mighty river falling precipitously from a height so great as 150 feet or more, is an object of true sublimity, but I now found that even of such an object exaggerated ideas may be preconceived ; and although the scenery connected with the Falls has been justly represented as extremely fine, I was unable to elevate my notions of it greatly above the recollection I had of scenery in some parts of the Highlands of Scotland. In a word, I left the renowned Falls of Niagara with an image of them on my mind much less magnificent than what had been impressed upon it before I saw them.

To Lewiston I proceeded by the railway, and from thence by a steamer down the river to Niagara, whence I crossed Lake Ontario to Toronto.

## CHAPTER IX.

Population of Toronto—Streets and Buildings—Mr A. Wood—Arrival at Hamilton—Difference between people in Upper Canada and those in the States—Features of the country—Cleared land—Means of transport and markets wanting—Speculators in land—Favourable settlement for labouring people only—Expense of Cultivation—Visit to Mr Ferguson at Woodhill—Meeting with the Chief of Macnab—Introduction to Sir Allan Macnab—His treatment by Whig Government—My purpose in visiting Upper Canada alluded to—Temperature—Return to Toronto—Bishop Strachan.

*May 1841.*

TORONTO, the capital of Upper Canada, pleasantly situate on the banks of Lake Ontario, is said now to contain 15,000 inhabitants. The streets are good, the buildings respectable, and two handsome churches, one Presbyterian and the other Episcopalian, add much to the appearance of the town. Of the latter

church Bishop Strachan a native of Aberdeen is minister.

My arrangements did not admit of my remaining here for more than one day on the present occasion, and after the pleasure of meeting with my old friend Alexander Wood who, in the course of the forty years he has resided and carried on business in this town, has acquired a large fortune, I embarked in a steamer for Hamilton. There I arrived on the 28th of May, and had the gratification of finding my daughter in good health.

I remained at Hamilton until the 8th of June, and in the interval made frequent excursions in the province, taking every opportunity of acquainting myself with its present situation.

On entering Canada I had been impressed with a marked difference between it and the United States. In the latter the people were everywhere distinguished by that cheerfulness and appearance of contentment which attend activity and exertion in peaceful pursuits. In Canada there prevailed an almost

universal gloom, the consequence of recent internal commotion ; of the still existing conflict and rancour of political feeling ; or of the withered hopes of many who, having speculated largely in land, have received little or no return for their money. This was my early impression, and anything I have since observed, or by inquiry ascertained, has served to confirm it, and to satisfy me that of the two countries the States hold out for agricultural pursuits, by far the greater advantages to persons possessed of any capital.

With the exception of portions of cleared land varying from fifty acres in some situations, to several hundreds in others, Upper Canada is an immense and trackless forest, forlorn and forbidding at best, and in many places rendered more gloomy and repulsive, by the trees having been burnt preparatory to being cut down, and consequently now presenting to the eye nothing but bare and blackened poles.

And with regard to what is called cleared land, it consists of no more than a patch here and there, on which the huge pines that for

ages had been tenants of the soil, have by the application of fire and axe been reduced to stumps four feet in height, so thick set as in many places to bid defiance to the plough, and to preclude any mode of cultivation except sowing and hand-raking the seed.

There are here no railways, and no interior water-carriage, advantages so amply enjoyed in the States, and although there are roads, they are of such a description as to be nearly impassable, excepting in winter when the sleigh is made use of.

Upper Canada, too, is comparatively destitute of local markets, or of any proper outlet for the surplus produce of the land ; for the population is not only thin and widely scattered, but themselves chiefly agricultural, each family therefore raising sufficient for its own supply ; and there are no towns of any magnitude to create any considerable demand for the surplus, nor if there were, are easy means of transport afforded.

In such circumstances, it is by no means surprising to find that the greater number of



those who had speculated in land have suffered grievous disappointment, and that of those coming under the description of gentlemen who had attempted to convert the forest into corn land by the force of money, the greater number quickly got rid of it and then either betook themselves to other pursuits, or as sometimes happened, becoming disgusted and reckless, gave themselves up to dissipation.

There is, however, one description of person to whom a settlement in these forests may prove tolerable—the labourer, and especially the hardy Highlander who glad to escape from privation at home and delighted to roam at large, may with his own hands and assisted by a family of sons, erect a rude hovel of log, gradually clear a quantity of land sufficient for a subsistence, and in the course of time come to possess a small property, the height of his ambition. Except to such persons clearing land here cannot be attractive or made remunerating.

The objection which in most cases applies to the cultivation of waste land on a large

scale in Scotland applies here with redoubled force ;—the expense of the improvement is more than, when improved, the land is worth.

It may give some idea of the disadvantage under which the clearing of land in Upper Canada must be accomplished, to advert to what takes place in clearing a fir wood in Scotland. There, although labour costs little more than one-half of its price in Canada, and although the largest trees are but as walking sticks in comparison with the Canadian pines, wood-land cannot be cleared and put in a condition for a corn crop, for less than L 20 per acre. The crop of trees may go far, perhaps do more than answer this expense ; but in Upper Canada, in clearing land, the trees are altogether valueless and yield no return for the trouble and expense of cutting them down and collecting their immense trunks into piles to be burnt ; and after all, their stumps remain for a great many years to encumber the ground and obstruct cultivation.

In short, the art of cultivating land is not perhaps practised in any country where,

viewing it generally, more discouraging obstacles to profitable agriculture present themselves, than are to be encountered in Upper Canada.

During one of my excursions from Hamilton, I visited and dined with another old friend, Adam Ferguson, who resides about seven miles from that place, on a small property which he has named Woodhill after his estate in Scotland. Here he has built a cottage commanding beautiful views, particularly of Burlington Bay, but its own situation is rugged, solitary and gloomy,—so much so that I could not help giving utterance to my surprise that he should have selected for his residence a place which to me seemed fit only for the abode of wolves and foxes, or of some recluse disgusted with the haunts of man.

In the course of seven years, Mr Ferguson has cleared or partially cleared a few acres, of which the soil appears sandy and of inferior quality, such as in Scotland would not be considered worth a rent of ten shillings an acre ; but he possesses here but a small extent of

land, the bulk of his property lying forty or fifty miles up the country, where he has settled several of his sons and where, I am informed, the soil is good and they have cleared 1200 acres. Mr Ferguson is the only one I heard of who has made a fortunate speculation in land in Upper Canada, having succeeded in disposing to advantage of several lots of what he had purchased.

I had the pleasure of meeting at Toronto the chief of Macnab who, some fifteen years ago, emigrated to Canada with his whole clan, and settled about 100 miles up the country. He is a fine representation of the Highland chieftain of days gone by—tall and stately and having, with perfect courtesy, the bearing of a man born to be obeyed. He seems well satisfied with his present position and describes things as flourishing in his clanship.

I was also introduced to Sir Allan Macnab who has built a magnificent house a mile or so from Hamilton, close on Burlington Bay, and made out and enclosed a large park in the English style. Sir Allan is also a fine-look-

ing man, his countenance strongly indicative of that intelligence and resolution which he is known in an eminent degree to possess. In the shortest interview one discovers in him the well-bred and accomplished gentleman. The interest he has taken and the services he has rendered in the affairs of Canada, have raised his character so high, that any eulogium from me might be deemed presumptuous. Suffice it to allude to the presence of mind, promptitude and energy with which, two years ago, he led out the militia force which he commands, and saved Toronto and its neighbourhood from being sacked and burnt by a numerous body of rebels, when all the regular troops had been withdrawn to the lower province.

I was hospitably entertained at the house of Sir Allan, and had the honour of an introduction to Lady Macnab and his family. In conversation with him on the objects of my inquiry, he informed me that, eleven years ago, Hamilton consisted of a single house, and the country all around was a dense forest. It now contains 2000 inhabitants, and cultivation has

been extended to a circuit of three or four miles. From this and other circumstances he mentioned, Sir Allan argues that by and by improvements will proceed rapidly, although he admits that in the meantime things are at a stand-still.

Sir Allan was President of the late Legislative Council, but by the Whig government his merits have not been duly requited. Their influence was used against him at the late election, and it was their policy to raise to power individuals whom he had found it necessary to put in gaol as rebels. Sir Allan is enthusiastic in his partiality to Upper Canada, and if the observations I have made regarding it shall ever meet his eye, they will not probably receive his concurrence ; but I have no doubt the liberality of his own opinions will give me credit for the sincerity of mine, as well as for the assurance that I should feel extreme regret if the expression of them were to prove unpleasant to any of my countrymen, and more particularly to any of my valued friends.

With reference to the opinion I have formed of Upper Canada, I may mention that the

chief object of my journey was to visit my daughter who has chosen to cast her lot for life on this side the Atlantic, but was undetermined, until I should decide, whether her husband and she should purchase a permanent residence in the Province or in the States. Now, looking to the matter of present comfort only—taking into view that the States are in comparison with Upper Canada, an old country, in many parts highly cultivated, and with good society—and that the Province is but in its infancy and only holds out prospects of advantage to be realized by some future generation,—I had no hesitation in pronouncing in favour of the former.

This explanation of my purpose will serve to show that my opinions have not been formed altogether gratuitously, nor without consideration ; but at the same time I should wish it to be understood, that although I have described with faithfulness what fell under my own observation, or was derived from the most authentic information I could obtain, yet my opportunities of examining into the agricultural affairs of Upper Canada were very limited.

It is a noble country certainly, and one day may rise to immense importance ; but behind, as it is in cultivation, and neglected as it has been by the government at home, and deficient as it yet is in capital, its progress in improvement must, to all present appearance, necessarily be slow.

It will thus be understood that while I would recommend the States to the choice of British emigrants, in preference to Upper Canada, I am induced to do so entirely from a consideration of existing circumstances ; as I do not doubt the time may come when, from the increase of population—the enlargement of present towns, and the growth of others—the establishment of railways and other means of internal communication and access to markets—and the accomplishment of numerous other desiderated improvements which it is in the power of Government to introduce and encourage, the Province will acquire attractions for emigrants, of which it is yet destitute, and afford those advantages which the States now exclusively present to them.

On the 8th of June I took leave of my



daughter and returned by steamer to Toronto, my face being now fairly turned homewards.

The soil round Hamilton is of a sandy nature, and the town is encompassed by lofty wooded hills ; during all the time of my sojourn there the thermometer in the shade, ranged from 85° to 90°, and this height of temperature, aggravated by the nature of the locality, I felt both night and day extremely oppressive, but yet not at all injurious to health.

At Toronto I now dined with Bishop Strachan, a man of great intelligence and agreeable manners, and much esteemed and respected. His living is worth L. 1000 a-year, and he has an excellent house just out of the town, where I was received by him and Mrs Strachan and their son, with that heartiness of welcome, and unaffected kindness, for which in Scotland unsophisticated families are still noted. Next day, the 9th, I spent with Alexander Wood, with all the gratification which the reminiscence of former days, and the renewal of old friendship could inspire.

## CHAPTER X.

Route to New York—Buffalo—Sail to Erie—Departure by stage for Pittsburgh—The trials of that conveyance—Comparison of old Scotch roads—Wildness of country between Erie and Pittsburgh—Crops—Indian corn — Stock — Difficult ascents — Arrival at Pittsburgh.

*June 1841.*

HAVING resolved to return to New York by a route different from that by which I came, I sailed for Lewiston at seven o'clock of the morning of the 10th of June, and thence proceeded by the railway forty miles to Buffalo, which, travelling over an uninviting country, I reached about six o'clock in the evening.

Buffalo, from "small beginnings," has risen during the present century to a town of great trade and wealth ; having a population of 20,000, with spacious streets, handsome shops,

numerous public buildings, and exhibiting all the life and activity of a busy and thriving shipping-place, from whence trade is carried on with all the western and southern states.

At nine o'clock on the 11th, I embarked in a steamer on Lake Erie for the town of Erie. The sail was delightful, the vessel having been steered near enough the land to afford a view of a beautiful country enriched by cultivation and enlivened by numerous handsome mansions interspersed among the fields and forests.

At Erie, a small country town, possessing no remarkable feature, I arrived at six o'clock, and remained all night.

Next morning at eight o'clock, I set off for Pittsburgh, distant 130 miles, and, although I had hoped for exemption from a repetition of the trials of an American stage-coach, I here found myself once more compelled to submit to them, as, in travelling from Erie to Pittsburgh, I had no choice but to take my seat in one of those rude and rickety machines, carrying nine passengers all stowed inside, in three rows, as formerly described, and to submit, so

circumstanced, to be jolted over one of the worst roads on which wheel ever rolled.

I can remember since the roads in Scotland were so bad that travelling in a post-chaise was a kind of adventure, and it was a usual thing, when any one projected the shortest journey, to make interest to procure for the occasion the services of the most expert post-boy at the inn, as affording some security against the common catastrophe of an *upset* ; but the Scotch roads of that period were bowling-greens in comparison with those which it was now my doom to be dragged over.

Nor was the injucundity of the conveyance relieved by any amenity in the country through which we plodded, it being for the greater part a continued forest, with now and then, in the wilderness, a portion of land of 100 or 200 acres, cleared in the roughest manner, and cropped among the remaining stumps with wheat, clover, and Indian corn, by farmers apparently in a small way, and generally dwelling in uncomfortable-looking log-houses. This vast tract of country, a few years ago,

was Congress land, but is now all disposed of, and in progress of clearing.

The wheat crops in our course looked well, and also, if I might judge, the Indian corn. The latter, I may here mention, is grown in rows, having a space of four feet between every two, and the plants in the rows three feet asunder, two seeds, as I learnt, being always dibbled into each hole. The land may thus be very effectually horse and hand-hoed, and, indeed, it appeared to me, that no crop I had ever seen admits of so thorough a working of the land in summer as this does.

I could not, however, learn whether Indian corn is found to be an exhausting crop, as "exhausting crop" seems not to be a term in an American farmer's vocabulary ; at least it has not been yet recognized in his language, although a persistence in his present management may ere long illustrate its meaning. From the class to which this plant belongs, it should be inferred, that it is to be included among deteriorating crops.

The stock I observed in the course of this

part of my tour were in general poor half-starved animals, showing as usual, on the part of the owners, a woful deficiency in this branch of rural economy.

The penance of this journey was not confined to our being dragged over the rocks, large stones, stumps, holes, and quags, which everywhere gave an *interesting* diversity to the surface of the road. With all these in the way, we had to toil up mountains approaching nearer to the perpendicular than any over which I had yet seen a carriage road conducted, and generally it happened, that, when we had surmounted and descended one mountain, another, high, rugged, and erect, immediately occurred, and seemed to bid defiance to our further progress. But I must own the views from these eminences were certainly of the grandest description, and afforded some recompense for the toil of attaining them.

It was, however, with great joy I at length found myself at Pittsburgh at half-past nine o'clock on Sunday night, having to a journey of 130 miles, taken thirty-seven hours, during

which time my bones and joints had feelingly sustained the grinding and friction produced by the worst of conveyances on the worst of roads.

## CHAPTER XI.

Pittsburgh—Ohio River—Iron founderies—Steam-boat machinery—Trade—Departure for Wheelin—Country between Pittsburgh and Wheelin—Arrival at Wheelin—Its communication with eastern states—Departure for Frederick—Country travelled over—Enter the Alleghanies—Cross these mountains—Arrival at Haggerston—Waggons and horses—Weather—Frederick—Arrival at Baltimore—The City—Visit to Mr Belzouver's farm.

*June 1841.*

PITTSBURGH in Pennsylvania contains about 20,000 inhabitants. It stands at the point of junction of the Alleghany and Monongohela rivers, here forming, by their union, the great but unruffled Ohio, which runs a course of about 1200 miles to join the Mississippi, and is said to be one of the most beautiful rivers in the world.

From the number of large iron founderies



at Pittsburgh, it ranks as the Birmingham of the states. It furnishes a great proportion of the steam-boat machinery used in America, and trades with the southern and western states by means of steam-vessels, of which I counted thirty of large dimensions, lying at the different wharves along the banks of the river. The town seems busy and flourishing, but is rendered disagreeable by the smoke of its numerous furnaces.

Thinking I had had quite enough of the American stage, I proposed going to Wheelin by water, the distance by that conveyance being ninety-five miles, which is forty miles more than the distance by land, but after having had my luggage put on board a steamer, I found there was, from the present shallowness of the water, great difficulty in getting down the river, and that I might be stuck fast in the channel for some days. I therefore had my luggage disembarked, and on the 15th of June once more placed myself in the stage, expecting certainly no greater enjoyment than I had

already experienced in a similar conveyance, but in this I was most agreeably disappointed.

After leaving Pittsburgh a few miles, I found the country altogether change its character ; the road macadamized and sound ; the country open ; the fields large and well cultivated, and completely cleared of the stumps which obstructed and greatly disfigured almost every field I had hitherto seen. In short, I was now, comparatively speaking, in an old country.

The crops consisted of wheat and Indian corn, with occasionally patches of oats and rye. Barley appears to be little known as a crop in the States, at least I had not yet seen a single field of it ; nor, although I understand beans, pease, and also turnips, are cultivated in some places, have I observed any of these grown by farmers. Indian corn seems to be the great staple, and to come in place of our fallow or cleaning-crops, for which purpose, as I have already observed, it seems, in one respect, well calculated. Red clover is culti-

vated extensively, and, as in other places, ploughed in as manure for wheat.

The stock I saw here is of a better description than in any of the places previously visited by me, but still by no means first-rate, nor at all like what should be found in such a country. Although I was told this is considered a sheep country, the few sheep I saw in it were miserable animals.

Such continued to be the character of the country all the way to Wheelin, and in many places it was truly beautiful.

About eleven o'clock A. M. I arrived at Wheelin, a small town on the Ohio possessing some iron founderies, but deriving its chief importance from being the great outlet from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and other places eastward, to New Orleans and the great southern and western states.

The communication from those cities is maintained, first by the several lines of railroad emerging from them, to Frederick, in Maryland, and from thence, by what is called "the great national road," across the Alle-

ghany mountains, to Wheelin. From the latter town to New Orleans, the distance is about 2000 miles, down the Ohio and Mississippi, and it is accomplished by steam-boats in an incredibly short time.

At one P. M. I left Wheelin by stage—to which I had become somewhat reconciled—for Frederick, distant 224 miles.

For the first forty or fifty miles, the country was in some degree open and cultivated, but after that we got into forest, and gradually into the depths of the Alleghany mountains. The road was still sound and good, but the hills may without exaggeration be described as tremendous, the ascents not only being excessively steep, but continuing so for many miles on end.

Notwithstanding their great elevation, these mountains are clothed to the top with fine timber, occasionally interspersed with patches of cleared land ; and as in this quarter immense tracts, formerly Congress land, are now the property of individuals, cultivation will doubtless be rapidly extended.

If, for the difficulty of the ascents between Erie and Pittsburgh, the traveller is recompensed by the views from their summits, much greater must be his gratification on accomplishing the more toilsome task of surmounting the Alleghanies. Placed there on a ridge of the earth, upheaved hundreds of yards above the general surface, and extending to nearly 1000 miles in length, and from 100 to 200 miles in breadth, he experiences an exaltation of mind befitting the contemplation of the boundless regions encompassing him—but yesterday composing inhospitable wilds, peopled by ruthless savages,—to-day possessed by an enlightened and powerful nation, under whom majestic rivers, wending their far journeys among primeval forests, have become subservient to the purposes of wide-spreading commerce, while every where appear splendid cities, handsome towns, and cultivated fields, with all that for utility or for ornament civilization brings in its train.

On Friday the 18th, in the morning, we descended from the mountains, and arrived at

Haggerston in Maryland. Both here and in Pennsylvania, which we had now left, the horses are strong and heavy, resembling the waggon-horses of England; and, indeed, the waggons employed in transporting commodities from Frederick across the Alleghanies, drawn by six or eight powerful animals, put one much in mind of the old English stage waggons, to which he was accustomed forty years ago.

Between Haggerston and Frederick, a distance of twenty-five miles, the country is highly cultivated, the fields large and quite cleared of stumps, and the crops of wheat abundant and far advanced.

From the day I left Toronto, we had experienced frequent heavy thunder-storms, and the weather throughout the journey was cool and pleasant, and generally of a temperature not materially different from that of my own country, consequently without any of that oppressive heat which I endured in Canada.

I arrived at Frederick, which is but a small town, at three o'clock afternoon, having been fif-

ty hours on the journey of 224 miles from Wheelin ; and at ten o'clock the same night, I set off by the railway for Baltimore, which I reached at two o'clock next morning.

Baltimore, the capital of Maryland, ranks as the fourth city of the Union ; the population is said to exceed 100,000, of which about one-third consists of free people of colour or of slaves, and of the white inhabitants, a large proportion are Roman Catholics.

In the appearance of the city there is nothing which very peculiarly distinguishes it from other large and wealthy towns in the Union ; the streets are good ; the houses, chiefly of brick, are neat ; the shops fine ; and numerous public buildings, and not a few conspicuous monuments, add much to the general effect.

Among the monuments here is that erected in honour of the great American Liberator, which bears a resemblance to the Monument of London, and, including the statue of Washington, rises about 200 feet in height. A spiral stair of 300 steps inside, leads to the sum-

mit, on which the statue is placed, and from thence is enjoyed a complete view of the city and surrounding country, with the Patapsco on which the city stands, winding its course to the Chesapeake ; with the combined richness and magnificence of this scenery I was much delighted.

In the afternoon I drove out with the landlord of the hotel, Mr Belzouver, to inspect a farm of 300 acres possessed by him, four miles from the city. This farm is well cultivated in the American manner, with wheat and Indian corn, and I found Mr Belzouver, displaying as a farmer, more enterprize and tact than common, having imported several Durham cows and bulls, and possessing a herd of eighteen cows and heifers, partly reared by himself. As regards shape, breeding, and condition, they are the best I had yet seen in the States, and indeed, as to some of the animals, as good as are to be met with in any country.

After all, there was even in his case an obvious deficiency in housing, although, from the advanced state of the season, the condition



of his cattle did not betray it so very obviously as in cases that had previously come under my observation ; and it also appeared to me that a great improvement in the productiveness of the land might be effected by a better system of husbandry.

## CHAPTER XII.

Departure for Richmond—Washington—Sail up the Potomac — Fredericksburgh — Arrival at Richmond—Condition of slaves in Virginia—Mr Marx's farm—His mode of farming—Culture of oats—Objections to his farming—Allowance of seed—Mules used in agriculture—Improvements suggested—To be partly adopted by Mr Marx—Flour-mills—Cotton-mills—Departure from Richmond—Arrival at Washington—Capitol—House of Representatives and Senate—Introduction to the President—Mount Vernon—The residence of Washington—His tomb—Return to Washington.

*June 1841.*

BEING desirous of acquainting myself with the condition of the slaves in Virginia, I left Baltimore *en route* for Richmond, capital of that State, by the railway, at nine A. M. on the 20th ; arrived at Washington, forty miles from Baltimore, at eleven ; and from thence embarked in a steamer bound up the Potomac.

This is one of the principal fishing rivers in

the States, and along both its banks are numerous fishing stations. To describe the great beauty of its scenery, would be very much to repeat a description of what is to be seen on all the great rivers and lakes of America, I had visited. I think it may correctly enough be said that, if any one to whom the scenery of the Thames above London is familiar, were to fancy the contexture of its natural objects very much increased in magnitude, and viewed in an atmosphere of great lustre and tranquillity, he might form a tolerable notion of the richness and grandeur of the summer scenery of an American river.

At five P. M. I landed at a wharf sixty miles from Washington, and thence proceeded by stage to Fredericksburgh, over nine miles of road as abominable as can be imagined.

For the remaining distance of sixty miles I placed myself on the railway, and at half-past eleven reached my destination at Richmond, having in fourteen hours travelled one hundred miles by railway, sixty by water, and nine by the stage.

Richmond, an extremely handsome town, contains about 40,000 inhabitants, of whom two-thirds are persons of colour, and a great proportion of these slaves. Every *servant*, man, woman, and child, is a slave, but to my great and agreeable surprise I found slavery here possesses none of the horrors I had at home been accustomed to hear connected with it—for the slaves in Virginia are well clothed and well fed, and kindly treated, and to all appearance contented and happy ; indeed, I should say their condition physically is one of great comfort and enjoyment, in comparison with that of our own manufacturing population, by thousands of whom, I cannot doubt, it would, in relation to the necessities of life, be looked upon with envy.

The men, for the greater part, are strong, muscular, and good-looking ; and of the women, many are handsome, particularly the nursery maids, housemaids, and other domestics, who, in dress and person, appear as gay, and tasteful, and tidy, as the most buxom of our lasses.

The term slave sounds harshly in a British ear, and when I was told by a nice light hearted looking girl, that she was a *slave*, I could not help regarding her with a feeling of commiseration ; *she*, however, seemed to think nothing of the designation, and I am glad to believe it is, at least in this State, felt in a great measure as but “ a name.”

What I had been told of masters selling the offspring of their slaves, as we would sell lambs, the produce of our ewes, I found to be totally without foundation. On the contrary, great attention is paid to the wants and comfort, and also the moral and religious instruction of slave children, and any master or family acting differently towards them would be scouted.

When it happens, as often it does, that any one owns more slaves than he himself has occasion to employ, he allows them to serve in different capacities in the employment of other persons, and particularly as domestic servants, in which capacity they receive wages from the employers at the rate of eight or ten dollars a month, one-half of which goes to the master

who clothes his slaves and otherwise cares for them. In this way it happens that many families have slave servants not their own, but to whom they pay wages.

There may be masters who are tyrannical and cruel to their slaves, but unhappily tyranny and cruelty to dependents are not peculiar to slave owners. I believe it might be easy to adduce authenticated instances of the treatment of parish apprentices in free England, the atrocity and horribleness of which would draw tears from the eyes of any slave owner in Virginia.

Far am I, however, from advocating the continuance of slavery in America. There and everywhere else, even under the most humane treatment, it is a debasement of human nature, admitting of no redeeming quality ; for although a kind master may slacken and make gentle the bonds in which he holds the *body* of his slave, there is yet a chain that fetters his *mind*—leaving it under the influence of all the vitiating passions, but placing far beyond

its reach every motive to ennobling virtues. For *this*, freedom alone is the remedy.

No right thinking man, therefore, can approve of slavery, and I understand none disapprove of it more, or with greater sincerity desire its abolition than do at this moment many of the slave owners of Virginia and Maryland, although a mistaken policy in other states as yet prevents the accomplishment of their wishes.

In the meantime it is gratifying to know that in these two States, and as far as I can learn in all others in which slavery is tolerated, the condition of the slave is not peculiarly subject to the inflictions of inhumanity, or liable to any of the atrocious barbarities which in my own country are unsparingly imputed to slave owners, often, I believe, by persons whose zeal is greater than their knowledge.

At Richmond I had a favourable opportunity of continuing my observation of American agriculture. I had brought a letter to a Mr Marx, one of two brothers of great opulence and consideration; the one conducting the business of a banker and general merchant,

the other residing on and farming their estate, consisting of 800 acres of rich alluvial soil, on James river, two miles out of Richmond. I was kindly invited by the banker to inspect the farm, and I gladly, along with him, there visited his brother.

I found the whole farm under a system of tillage, the crops being wheat, Indian corn, and clover, with a considerable breadth of oats.

I had observed, from the time I entered Virginia, that oats is a crop much cultivated in that State, although the produce is very poor both in quantity and quality, and in most instances such as our farmers would think not worth being harvested.

On Mr Marx's farm, from the superior quality of the soil, the crop of oats was better than any I had seen, but still such as would with us be considered miserable; and from what I had observed, and understood from Mr Marx, it was evident that the climate of the States is from its heat and drought unfavourable to the growth of oats; for although when the seed is imported from Britain, the



first crop is pretty fair, yet after that it gradually degenerates, and accordingly the general weight of oats here does not exceed 28 or 30 lb. per imperial bushel, a weight of grain which would not be marketable in our country.

I was sorry that of Mr Marx's mode of husbandry I could not approve much more than of what I had remarked elsewhere.

His crops were no doubt richer and more luxuriant than any I had seen, but for this it appeared to me he was mainly indebted to a superiority of soil and climate ; and as an instance of his advantage in this respect I may mention that I saw upon his farm 100 acres of wheat now quite ripe, and intended to be reaped next day, the 23d of June.

He keeps little or no stock of any description, and magnificent fields of clover were destined to be ploughed in as manure for wheat. This clover if given to stock in the yard would, I need hardly notice, have served to convert his straw into manure, then all lying about and going to waste, or partially sold in the town of Richmond, whence no com-

pensating return in the shape of manure is brought to the farm.

The consequence of this system has been to pinch the land to such a degree, that this alluvial and naturally most fertile soil, capable under judicious management of carrying crops of I should say fifty bushels of wheat per acre, produces no more than from twenty-five to thirty.

At the same time I should notice a singular fact alluded to by Mr Marx, and which indeed I had remarked before, but omitted to mention, as being general over the States, that more than a bushel, or a bushel and one-fourth of wheat per acre is never sown, and to this practice I think may in some measure be ascribed the lightness of their crops.

Another circumstance no doubt contributing to the same effect, is the great heat of the sun, the thermometer at this season commonly ranging in the shade from 85° to 95°, a height of temperature which may give a hurtful prematurity to the crops of wheat.

From these different causes—stinting the

soil of manure, deficiency in the quantity of seed, and in intenseness of atmospheric heat—it no doubt arises that land of the greatest apparent fertility produces crops short in the ear, and seldom weighing more than 60 lb. per bushel British measure; and that the wheat fields of the States do not show those fine waving crops we are accustomed to see in Britain.

Mules are chiefly used for agricultural purposes, both here and in Maryland; they are large strong animals, seemingly from Maltese asses, and, I understand, endure the heat of the climate much better than horses.

From the period of the year at which I visited Virginia, I had not a very good opportunity of forming a judgment of the manner in which field work is performed. I learnt sufficient, however, to convince me not only that it is done in an old-fashioned and inefficient mode, but that the Virginia landowner would find his account in bringing from a good district in England or Scotland, a person practically conversant with grain and stock farm-

ing, and placing his agricultural concerns under his direction. By this means such a farm as that of Mr Marx might soon be advanced in productiveness to an amount greatly beyond the salary of such a manager, and an improved and advantageous practice of husbandry would spread itself and take the place of the defective and comparatively profitless system now followed in the States.

I was glad to find Mr Marx not obstinately wedded to old modes; for in the discussions on agricultural subjects I had with him and his brother after dinner at their country house, I was able so far to convince him of the benefit he would reap from a change of system, that he resolved to give a fair trial to what I suggested, and instead of ploughing in his luxuriant crops of clover, to use them in soiling his horses and cattle, to cart out the manure to be so obtained for his wheat, and to encrease his allowance of seed to four bushels an acre, the usual quantity given by British farmers.

I can have no doubt of the favourable re-

sult of this experiment, more especially as regards the encrease of seed, having been informed by him that from their alternate frosts and rains in winter, the wheat plants are very liable to be thrown out, a circumstance which renders it, with them, unsafe to sow wheat after September, or consequently following Indian corn, which does not ripen till October. This appeared to me an obvious additional reason for thicker sowing.

I conceive also that Mr Marx should find spring wheat an advantageous crop. I am aware that summer follows winter so rapidly here, as to leave but little interval for spring work, but spring corn to a certain extent is nevertheless cultivated ; and if the wheat land were prepared and the manure well ploughed in before winter, there should not I think be any difficulty in sowing and harrowing the seed as soon as winter departs. Throwing out the plants by frost would be thus avoided, and the excellence of the climate would secure the seasonable perfecting of the spring sown crop.

Mr Marx enjoys a great advantage in hav-

ing in his neighbourhood extensive flour mills where he finds a ready market for his wheat, Virginia flour being in high estimation all over the States.

My time being limited I had it not in my power to examine any other farm in this quarter, although I was told that, forty or fifty miles up the James river, there are to be seen many fine farms on a large scale ; in fact I might easily have passed a month in pursuing agricultural enquiries in this State.

In returning to Richmond I visited an extensive cotton mill on James river, at which both white and black children are employed indiscriminately, and they all appeared healthy, clean, and comfortable, and as far as I could judge the concern seemed to be well conducted.

After having satisfied myself with the sights of Richmond—its commanding situation on the banks of James river ; its State house on the rising ground to which the city extends ; its bridges of singular construction ; its theatre and court-house ; its wharves, canal, and large basin in the centre of the town ; and above

all its statue of Washington of the most chaste design and elegant workmanship,—I took my departure at six o'clock A. M. on the 24th of June, for Washington, and arrived there about four afternoon.

Owing to the sitting of Congress, Washington was much crowded, but I was fortunate in placing myself comfortably at the lodging house of Mrs Hamilton in Pennsylvania Avenue, which I shall when opportunity serves cordially recommend to any of my friends who may have occasion to visit Washington. Mrs Hamilton is of Scotch extraction, and her daughter, a very interesting young lady, seems to have a strong partiality for everything connected with Scotland, and regarding it put many questions to me, which my *amor patriæ* was gratified in hearing and answering.

Next morning I called on Mr Greig of Canandaigua, who kindly took me to the Capitol, a noble edifice of the most elegant proportions and workmanship, containing the two houses or chambers of the legislature, with the courts of law and the offices belonging to each,

and adorned exteriorly with domes and stately columns, and interiorly with many valuable paintings and statues, among them, of course, a portrait and statue of the illustrious Washington.

I heard some speeches in the House of Representatives on the M'Leod affair ; the orators delivered themselves fluently and clearly, and with considerable eloquence, and from what I heard, I should set them down as speakers superior to many who make a figure in our House of Commons.

After having been also in the Senate, I was taken by Mr Greig to wait upon the President of the United States, Mr Tyler, who rose from the office of Vice-President by the unlooked for death of General Harrison. The President resides in a handsome house, provided by the nation, commanding a fine view of the Potomac river. Mr Tyler is a man of slender figure, of middle age, plainly dressed, and of a keen intelligent countenance ; and I must say, speaking literally, that he received me " very graciously."



Finding I was only seventeen miles from Mount Vernon, once the residence and now the resting-place of the great Washington, I felt it would be a reproach to return home without visiting his tomb. Accordingly on the morning of the 23th of June, I left Washington by the steamer, and after a sail of seven miles, disembarked at Alexandria, a town of considerable importance, and from thence with a party of strangers, on the same errand with myself, proceeded in a stage for Mount Vernon, a distance of ten miles.

The first five miles led through a fine cultivated country, and I there saw, for the first time, a field of wheat in *stooks* ; the crop appeared to be light. The remaining five miles were entirely through a copse forest ; the soil light and sandy, and the road as usual abominable.

Mount Vernon is a house of moderate size, of the description of a gentleman's country house of the old English style. It is now inhabited by the widow of Judge Washington, nephew of the General, and strangers are not

admitted to view the interior. The place appears to be completely neglected, and the only thing worthy of observation is a small garden with a few orange and lemon trees which were planted by the hand of Washington.

That Washington latterly turned his mind to agriculture and the improvement of his landed estate, appears from his correspondence with Sir John Sinclair, but of any improvements he actually accomplished no vestige remains ; the land has been allowed to return to a state of wild nature, and is now a mere copse forest.

The remains of Washington and of his widow are contained in stone coffins or sarcophagi, deposited side by side in an arched mausoleum, and inscriptions on them tell that he died in 1799, at the age of sixty-seven, and she in 1802, at the age of seventy-one.

Standing by the tomb of Washington, it is with a feeling of profound veneration, that one, even of the country over which he so signally triumphed, looks back to his history—to the generosity of his nature—the energy of his

mind—the vastness of his undertaking—the arduous struggle he maintained—the result which crowned it and immortalized his name ; and perhaps, more than all, the rare magnanimity with which at last, after having established the independence, and become the governor of a great nation, he voluntarily relinquished power and retired into private life. It is no wonder then, we find that it is with the most ardent devotion Americans regard his memory, and that monuments in honour of it are made to adorn their cities, and his portraits and statues their public halls and private buildings.

On my return to Washington about six o'clock, I called on my friend Mr Greig to take leave, and after I had been with him for an hour or two, we parted with a lasting sense of his kindness on my part, and with an assurance from him of a continuance of friendship, with which I could not but feel highly gratified.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Departure from Washington—Country between it and Philadelphia—Arrival there—Head's Mansion-House—Mr Cope—Drive with him to the country—Visit to Mr Sheaff's farm—Superiority of his management—Crops secured in barns—Objections to that mode—Excellence of his barns—Garden and orchards—His place for sale—Mr and Mrs Tyson—Water-works—Penitentiary—Gerard's College—Chinese museum—Mr Cadwallader's fast-trotters—Secretary of Antiquarian Society—Draft of Deed of Independence—Departure from Philadelphia.

*June 1841.*

ON the 27th of June at six A. M. I left Washington—at nine arrived at Baltimore, and after breakfast set out for Philadelphia, distant ninety miles.

For the first sixty miles we passed through a poor sandy country chiefly in copse. Indeed as in America the railways are generally conducted through the flattest and least va-

luable land, they do not always afford to travellers a favourable view of the country; and although in the present case another line passes through a district which is highly cultivated, I learnt this too late for my purpose.

I had often been told that the finest country in all the States is that which widely surrounds Philadelphia, and my belief of this was now agreeably confirmed, for certainly nothing could exceed in richness or be imagined finer than the country we traversed the remaining part of our way from Baltimore. The land is of exceeding fertility, almost entirely in meadow of beautiful verdure, laid out in fields of about 100 acres, here neatly enclosed with post and rail, there with luxuriant hedges, while numerous elegant mansions, smart villas, and fine trees plentifully scattered as in the great English parks, complete the picture. Such was the country through which we passed for thirty miles, up to the city of Philadelphia.

The stock grazing here was in point of condition of a superior kind, and included many

large heavy bullocks ; but blood or pedigree seemed to have met with no attention, the animals being apparently of various breeds, some of them resembling the Lancashire.

We arrived at Philadelphia about three o'clock, and as recommended by Mr Greig, I took up my quarters at "Head's Mansion House," where I found all the comforts of a first-rate hotel—Head himself a good resemblance of the "John Bull" landlord, fond of sporting ; his house conducted in the English style—frequented by good society—and free from the usual nuisance of a public bar. He and three sons, strapping young fellows who assist him, are sedulous in attention to his guests, and strangers visiting Philadelphia need desire no better cheer or accommodation than is to be found in Head's "Mansion House."

I had brought letters of introduction to several families, chiefly of the Society of Friends, and after I had partaken of a good dinner, and some good port wine—the latter by the by rather a rarity in the States—I called with a

letter from Joseph John Gurney, on Friend T. P. Cope, a leading merchant in Philadelphia.

As the great-great-grandson and lineal descendant of "the Apologist," I found my appearance in the great Quaker city hailed as a sort of event, and welcomed with kindness and hospitality, and nowhere more cordially than in the family of Friend Cope in whom I was happy to meet a person much looked up to by all classes, for his integrity, kind-heartedness and benevolence. He is now a man of seventy—has been eminently successful in the world—is of frank and easy manners, and possessing extensive information, has the rare talent of communicating it mingled with amusing anecdote—altogether he is the most cheerful of the cheerful—a noble instance of a well spent life. His spouse, dressed more in the primitive simplicity of the Quakers, than any one I had yet seen in the States, evinces much of the kindness and affability peculiar to females of that persuasion.

Friend Cope no sooner learnt that my chief

object was to see the country, than he ordered his phæton and drove me out a circuit of ten or twelve miles by the Schuylkill river, over a portion of country which for richness is, to say the least, equal to the finest parts of Lincolnshire. It consists of alluvial soil chiefly in meadow covered with bullocks, but partly in tillage, bearing wheat and Indian corn, and partly also devoted to the culture of vegetables for the supply of Philadelphia. The average value of such land I understood to be about 250 dollars or L. 50 per acre.

After a delightful drive, I returned to Friend Cope's, where I spent the evening. Next morning, the 28th, after breakfast, in consequence of an appointment he had kindly made for me, I accompanied him on a visit to the farm of a Mr Sheaff, about fourteen miles from the city.

We again passed over a charming country, and through a town called Germantown, five miles in length, but the houses, which generally have gardens in front, very straggling ;



and about one o'clock we drove up to Mr Sheaff's mansion.

He very readily and obligingly undertook to show me his farm. It consists of 300 acres, and I at once discovered from the appearance of the land that he manages in a superior style. His crops are wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, potatoes and clover, with a small portion of pasturage, all cultivated in a masterly manner, and the land particularly clean.

Mr Bloomfield, one of the Earl of Leicester's principal tenants, and, of course, a crack farmer, who visited here three or four years ago, was greatly taken with Mr Sheaff's agricultural operations, and declared that his farm exhibited, in his opinion, the only instance of anything approaching a regular English system of husbandry he had met with in the States.

Mr Sheaff's crops of wheat are now ready to be mowed, and although their appearance is very fine, he tells me he seldom averages more than thirty bushels per acre ; that over the whole of

the States the average is not greater, and that the minimum is as low as fifteen bushels.

In my observations on Mr Marx's farm near Richmond, I have suggested probable causes and remedies for this apparent deficiency of produce in the American wheat crops. The objections do not altogether apply to Mr Sheaff's management, because with him I witnessed the great rarity of a mound of from 300 to 400 tons of excellent manure, in itself a proof of his superior practice ; but I have reason to doubt whether even he allows his land a sufficiency of manure—that important article in wheat husbandry—and whether also his wheat crops might not be rendered more productive by an increase of the allowance of seed.

His crop of Indian corn was to me an object of peculiar interest ; planted in rows in the usual manner, the land on which it grows has been kept as clean as any garden ; it rises to the height of eight or nine feet, and the hotter the weather the more rapid its growth, Friend Cope having informed me that he has watch-

ed and measured the progress of the Indian corn plants, and found in the very hottest weather that they make shoots of three and four inches in twenty-four hours.

Indian corn ground into meal and mixed with cut clover-hay, is used for stall-feeding cattle, and I understand with great efficacy. The cultivation of that corn supersedes here the use of green crops as food for stock ; but it seems a question meriting the consideration of the American farmer whether the culture of turnips, and also of potatoes more extensively than is practised—both, of course, being stored before winter—should not be adopted as facilitating the means of converting straw into manure.

Not having had experience of an American winter, I may not presume to determine whether stock may here be kept loose in a yard communicating with open sheds, and there supplied with turnips, or potatoes, or other green food, and with plenty of fodder and litter, according to what in Scotland is practised with great advantage ; but if this may be done, and

I can see no impracticability in it, it is obvious it would give the States farmer a command of manure within his farm equal to his occasions. At all events, there should certainly be no difficulty in tying up the whole of his young stock, or stock not put up for fattening, in close sheds, and there treating them in the manner mentioned—thus not only keeping them much better than is consistent with the existing cruel mode of treating them during winter, but also making them, so to speak, *manufacturers* of much valuable manure.

Besides, I should say the occasional use of turnips or potatoes or other succulent food, alternately with the meal of Indian corn, and cut clover-hay, would be beneficial in exciting and keeping alive the appetite of the stall-fed cattle, and of consequence accelerating their fattening.

Mr Sheaff is now in the midst of harvesting his hay which in some of his fields consists entirely of clover ; in others a mixture of clover and Timothy-grass, which he tells me is much prized as food for horses. I should

think an admixture of rye-grass and some of the other approved hay grasses, would be found still an improvement.

Between this country and ours the difference of climate is very striking—here, in two days after it is cut, the clover crop is in a safe state for being carted home and stored in the barn ; with us the precariousness of hay harvest, not only in Scotland, but in the better climate of England, is too well-known ; here no description of crop, grain or hay, is ever *stacked* ; all is at once stored in large barns ; with us, if such a practice were attempted, the buildings, in all probability, would very soon be burnt down by the spontaneous combustion of the contained mass.

But although in the States, the climate admits of this mode of securing the crops in barns, I should not approve of it even there, as besides various other disadvantages, it must create waste and confusion in thrashing, particularly where thrashing-mills are used, which however it is surprising to see is but rarely the

case in the States, notwithstanding the complaint of the high price of labour.

The British farmer takes a pride in the array of his rick-yard, the number and symmetry and arrangement of his corn-stacks being signs of his merit ; and this matter, trifling as it may appear, enters influentially into that emulation among farmers, to which much of our advancement in agricultural science is owing.

But the rick-yard is further of utility in enabling the farmer to keep an exact account of the produce of each particular field on his farm, so as to test the comparative fertility of each ; or the quality and value of the seed with which it was sown ; or the efficacy of different manures, or of distinct modes of culture. For these purposes he has a map of his rick-yard, on which the sites of the stacks are numbered, with reference to entries in his farm-book of everything he desires to record as to the origin, the contents, and the disposal of each stack. These are matters of importance to a farmer who has any desire *to know what*

*he is doing*, but they are beyond the reach of any one who huddles his crops higgledy-piggledy in a great barn.

I do not conceive that there is anything in the climate of America to prevent the securing of either hay or corn crops in stacks. An inspection of the rick-yard of any good farmer in England or Scotland, and more particularly perhaps in Northumberland, Berwickshire or East Lothian, would be sufficient to remove every doubt of the practicability of keeping corn and hay in stacks with perfect safety ; and if any American farmer would engage a man from any one of these localities, to stack his crops, he might depend upon its being done in such a manner as to resist any rains or storms that would not penetrate or demolish his barns.

Mr Sheaff has two barns, each of large dimensions and very handsome. In one of them are contained his stables and feeding stalls, in the latter of which he can tie up ninety head of cattle to be fattened. This part of the building is particularly well arranged ; it is sixteen feet wide, having a stall, a large

manger and a hay-rack for each animal ; it is paved with wood, and having just been white-washed, appears as neat and clean as any gentleman's stable.

The only stock I saw here were a few dairy cows, of no distinct breed ; but Mr Sheaff says he has grazing at some distance a herd of short-horns which he describes as first-rate. We were however so oppressed with heat, the thermometer standing at  $95^{\circ}$  in the shade, that *no one of the party* was inclined to undertake the walk to their pastures.

Mr Sheaff has a garden and several fine orchards ; in speaking of which, I may notice that making out a garden in the States, occasions no expense in comparison with what a garden costs with us ; no walls or forcing houses are required, as grapes, peaches, and every description of fruit ripen here on standards in the open air. The Americans however, probably just from the very facility of creating them, do not seem to take much interest or pleasure in their gardens, and Mr Sheaff's was the best I had seen.



We adjourned to dinner at three o'clock, and I was introduced to Mrs Sheaff and four daughters, all very agreeable ladies, and a son, a promising young man who now takes the chief management of the farm, was also present.

Mr Sheaff wishes to dispose of this property for which he asks 75,000 dollars, being at the rate of about L.50 per acre. The mansion-house is large and commodious, commanding a fine view over a rich country, and the grounds round the mansion are laid out with taste, and neatly kept. The land is in a high state of cultivation, the effect of good management ; and upon the whole Mr Sheaff's is a nice compact small property, with every convenience for a family ; but the soil is not naturally excellent, and if it were not treated, as it has been, in a judicious manner, it might soon decline.

Whether the price asked be over or under the value, I will not take upon me to say, but I may mention that Mr Sheaff informs me that he is able to dispose of 100 tons of hay annually, the return for which defrays all out-

lays on the farm, the rest of the crops sold, as well as what is cleared by stock, going for profit.

We took leave of that gentleman with on my part a feeling of obligation for his polite attention, and returned to Philadelphia. I spent the evening at Friend Cope's, and there met his daughter and her husband Mr Tyson, a gentleman of the legal profession—he a very pleasant man, and she possessing all the lively humour and amiable qualities of her worthy father.

Part of the 29th I devoted to calling and delivering letters of introduction I had brought with me, but I found several of the Friends had left town for the summer, and that others were not at home.

The rest of the day was spent in walking through and viewing the city, and in the evening I received from Mr George Cadwallader, son of General Cadwallader, to whom I had a letter from George Barclay—a note inviting me to dine with him next day.

Mr Cadwallader having fixed next morning,

the 30th, for showing me some of the *sights* of Philadelphia, called accordingly, and we drove first to the water-works, a stupendous achievement of art and labour, by which a great body of water from the Schuylkill river is forced by the power of three immense wheels, driven by the current, to the summit of a hill overtopping the highest houses, and is there received into three large reservoirs, out of which, by means of pipes, it is plentifully distributed over the city, at a moderate charge to the inhabitants. The sight of this gigantic work so indicative of great ingenuity and enterprize filled me with astonishment.

We next drove to the Penitentiary or State-prison, a great and admirable establishment, containing separate cells and airing-yards for 500 prisoners, arranged so as to be all within view from a hall in the centre, but so also that one prisoner is not within sight of hearing of another.

The principle of this establishment is solitary confinement, and every prisoner is supplied with work such as he can perform, and if

ignorant of a trade is taught one. No one sentenced to a shorter imprisonment than two years is received here, and although the sentence may be for life, imprisonment, the governor tells me, is seldom continued in any case beyond ten years.

Every prisoner on his arrival is conducted blindfold to his cell, from which, or the airing-yard attached to it, he never emerges till his sentence is fulfilled ; he never sees the face of another prisoner, and no one but officers of the establishment is ever allowed to see him. When his appointed term of imprisonment terminates, he is furnished with a sum of money, part of his own earnings in prison, to enable him to follow an honest calling, and having been kept in solitary confinement, all along unseen by any one, if he now chooses to remove to where he was previously unknown, the secret of his imprisonment may lie in his own breast.

Some such provision is a great desideratum in our own prison-system, according to which, however much a criminal may have reformed

in his confinement, and however desirous to pursue a virtuous course when it is ended, he finds on his return to the world, that he carries along with him an indelible stigma which proves a bar to his exercise of honest industry, and leaves him no choice but a return to his former vicious habits.

We next visited Girard's College, a magnificent marble edifice, not yet completed, which in dimensions will surpass the College of Edinburgh, and in splendour of architecture will, it is said, equal any building in the world. The founder was a Mr Girard, a Frenchman, who from obscurity and poverty, rose to be a great banker in Philadelphia, and bequeathed a fortune of about a million and a half Sterling, for the erection and endowment of this College.

It is about eight years since the building of it was commenced, and some years may yet be required for its completion. Some rather whimsical conditions disqualifying certain descriptions of persons from being appointed professors, are expressed in the founder's will, but so ample is the endowment of the institution,

that eminent men of science and literature will no doubt be found ready to become the teachers in it.

From Girard's College we went to what is called the Chinese Museum—a very remarkable collection of curiosities, comprehending birds, quadrupeds, shells, and other subjects of natural history, peculiar to China, with full-length figures in wax, said to be correct likenesses of some of the Imperial family and eminent characters of that country. The proprietor of this museum had been long resident in China, and having become a favourite with his *celestial* Majesty, was allowed to make this collection—a sort of privilege which had never before been granted to any *barbarian*.

After having visited various other public works and objects of interest, I proceeded at five o'clock to dinner at Mr Cadwallader's, where there was an agreeable party. That gentleman possesses a large landed estate in Maryland ; is a great sportsman, a crack shot, and owns two of the fastest trotting horses in the States, or perhaps in any country—one of

them can *do the mile* in two minutes thirty seconds.

After dinner Mr Cadwallader sent me in his carriage to Mr Tyson's, where I met Mr Cope and other Friends, and passed the evening.

Next morning, July 1st, I breakfasted with the Secretary of the Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia—a singular personage now nearly ninety years of age, yet hale and strong in body, and entire and vigorous in intellect ; he is an enthusiast in antiquarian research, and showed me many documents upon which great value is placed—particularly the original draft of the Deed of Independence in 1776, with the corrections, erasures, and additions that were made upon it, in the course of its momentous discussion. I regretted that I was not sufficiently versed in antiquarian lore, fully to enjoy what to many a one would have proved a rich treat.

I this day took leave of Philadelphia, the metropolis of Pennsylvania, a country which only 200 years ago—a short period in the his-

tory of nations—was, in its forest state, taken possession of by Europeans—not by the force of war, but by peaceful negotiation and agreement with its indigenous occupiers ; it now appears one of the fairest portions of the earth, rich in everything that pertains to civilized life, and for nothing more remarkable than this great and beautiful city, in its many benevolent institutions proclaiming the philanthropy of its founder William Penn, and in its neatness, order, and decorum, owning the influence of that excellent Society of which he was a distinguished member.

In leaving Philadelphia, I should be deficient in gratitude were I not to acknowledge that to the kind friends I found there, and particularly to T. P. Cope and his family, I feel myself under obligations for their attentions, which never can be erased from my remembrance.



## CHAPTER XIV.

Return to New York through East Jersey—Anniversary of American Independence—Exemplary behaviour of the assemblage—Jubilee suddenly terminated by a terrific thunderstorm—Visit to Glover Farm New Jersey—Departure from New York—Arrival at Boston—Dinner on board Britannia Steamer, and presentation of plate to Captain Cleland—Concluding observations on the United States—Departure from Boston—Return to Liverpool—Unprecedented rapidity of the voyage.

*July 1841.*

IN travelling by railway from Philadelphia to New York, I passed through East Jersey, a light and sandy soil, but well cultivated according to the usual American system. At twelve at night I reached New York, and put up at an excellent house, the Globe, in Broadway.

While in New York, on this occasion, I had

an opportunity of witnessing the celebration of the 4th of July, the birth-day of American Independence.

The anniversary happened this year to fall on a Sunday, and the festivities were therefore postponed till the Monday, but yet on the evening of Saturday, partial demonstrations of joy by groups of people on the streets, announced the coming jubilee.

At an early hour on Monday it burst forth in all the "pomp and circumstance" with which public rejoicings in a great city are usually manifested. For the time, business appeared to have been laid aside in every quarter, and countless multitudes of all classes, citizens of New York and inhabitants of the rural districts for many miles around, thronged the streets from morning to night, eager in mutual gratulation, and having their gladdened spirits still more enlivened by the ringing of bells, the flying of colours, the roaring of cannon, and the more dulcet sounds of music issuing from numerous bands stationed at different places, or accompanying processions to

or from meetings at which orations were made in honour of the day.

I walked much about beholding the animated scene, with no other inconvenience than the difficulty of threading my way through so dense an assemblage, and I think it deserving of particular remark, that in this congregated mass of many tens of thousands, I saw no person intoxicated, witnessed no quarrelling or disorder, nor heard an angry expression directed from one to another.

Whether this arose from the exhilarating nature of the occasion, disposing every mind to none but the more kindly feelings, or was a consequence of the temperament of the American people, distinguishing them from those of countries in which drunkenness and outrage are the too certain attendants on such conventions, I do not pretend to determine; but I am very sure that in my own country, a promiscuous congregation of the people, much less numerous than what I this day saw in New York, would not readily pass over with-

out many quarrels and broken heads, or probably more serious occurrences.

It had been announced that in the evening, according to custom, grand displays of fireworks were to be exhibited at different places of amusement, and about ten o'clock, the people, still not sensibly diminished in numbers, were moving anxiously towards the expected exhibitions, when a terrible thunderstorm burst over the city, and suddenly terminated the day's proceedings.

It was full moon, and the street lamps had not been lit. In a moment the city was enveloped in a cloud of such intense darkness, that, walking home from where I had been dining, I should hardly have found my way but for those incessant flashes of the most vivid lightning that ushered in continuous peals of deafening thunder. The rain then descended in torrents, the streets were instantaneously deserted, and thus, by a terrific convulsion of nature, was closed, in New York, the sixty-third anniversary of American Independence.

I remained here until the 14th, during

which time nothing farther occurred deserving notice, except that I one day crossed over to New Jersey, with a view to a purchase for my daughter, of a farm thirty miles in the interior, which I understood was for sale. It is called Glover Farm, having formerly belonged to a Colonel Glover, but is now the property of a Mr Grieve, formerly a Fifeshire farmer and cattle-dealer, whom I had often met in Scotland, and who on my appearance now at his house, betrayed as much surprise as if I had dropped from the clouds.

I found an excellent stone and brick built house, containing a hall, two large public rooms, and eight or ten bed-chambers—situate on an eminence with a neat garden in front—and more resembling a gentleman's house in Scotland than any I had remarked in this country. The property consists of 169 acres of arable land, and 99 in wood—the soil light and gravelly, and by no means in good order. The crops were light and consisted of wheat, Indian corn, oats, and clover, with thirty acres in meadow. A few dairy cows was all the

stock on the farm. On the whole the place was desirable enough, having a small clear river within a quarter of a mile of the house, well supplied with trout, and two ponds stocked with fish, and there being on the estate, as I was informed, plenty of quail, woodcock, snipe, and other game. The distance from Newark is six miles, and Newark is distant by the railway twenty-four miles from Jersey city on the river side opposite to New York, and the neighbourhood of extensive lead mines, Mr Grieve told me, affords him a ready market for farm produce. But 13,000 dollars, the price demanded, I considered above the value of the property, which only three years ago was purchased for 10,000.

Having passed ten days at New York much to my satisfaction, and chiefly with my relatives, Messrs George and Anthony Barclay, who had proved my sheet anchor, and without whose kind interposition I should have been indeed a stranger in the land, I returned by steamer to Stonnington, and from thence by railway to Boston, where I arrived on the

morning of the 15th, exactly ten weeks from the day on which I landed there from Liverpool.

I found the *Britannia Steamer* now at Boston, and was heartily welcomed by Captain Cleland and Lieutenant Roberts. The same day I attended a dinner on board and witnessed the presentation to the Captain of a piece of plate to which, along with my fellow passengers from Liverpool, I had cheerfully subscribed, as an acknowledgment of our sense of his kind and polite attention, and the seamanship and discipline displayed by him on a voyage for the greater part so extremely boisterous as that which in April and May we performed with him to Halifax.

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Now on the eve of bidding farewell to America, I must express the high gratification I have derived from my visit to that great, rising, and most interesting country, the advancement of which in power and riches, is,

with reference to the period that has intervened since it ranked as an independent state, or even looking back to the very dawn of its civilization, perhaps unparalleled in the history of nations.

It has not been my province to speak of its extensive commerce, or its growing manufactures. Its agriculture was the chief object of my attention, and in that I have seen an immeasurable source of wealth, naturally attracting much of the capital and a vast proportion of its own population, and affording also an alluring invitation to the inhabitants of other countries, and more especially the British farmer.

That there is much room for improvement in the practice of American agriculture, I have endeavoured in some respects to point out ; and it is an important and encouraging consideration, that the defects calling for remedy in a great measure proceed from the excellence of the soil and climate, which, operating so spontaneously in production, have as yet left in abeyance those exertions which, as is exem-



plified in other countries, a less fertile soil and a more ungenial climate, would have drawn forth, it having been well expressed by a celebrated agricultural writer, that *where nature is bountiful, man is too apt to be indolent.*

If I might presume to address, and could imagine my advice would reach, the landed proprietors of the States, I would impress upon their attention the advantages to be derived from an observance of the modes of husbandry which, with the aids of science, and after long experience, have been established in Britain, both as regards the cultivation of land and the breeding and rearing of stock.\*

This is a matter of more concernment to American farmers than many of them seem aware of, for, although from the great natural richness of their soil, and, in the general case, its recent subjection to culture, it may as yet exhibit but few signs of exhaustion, it cannot

\* *Vide* Reports of Counties of England and Scotland drawn up for the Board of Agriculture; also "Code of Agriculture," and other valuable agricultural works by Sir John Sinclair.

be supposed that, under a system of over-cropping, or as in Scotland it is emphatically termed a *scourging system*, it will not at length give way, and when its impoverishment once takes place, they may be assured it will be a matter very difficult, or it may be impracticable, to restore it to anything like original fertility.

This observation more particularly applies to land which has been reclaimed from forest. Alluvial soil by deeper and deeper ploughing may be kept in a productive state for a longer time, and when it sickens, as sicken it must, from constant working without feeding, it may perhaps be revived by stimulating manures, or by being laid to rest for a sufficient time under grass. Even in this case, prevention being better than cure, it were unwise to deteriorate the soil by overcropping when the means of preserving its fertility are at hand.

But as to land cleared from forest, the productiveness of it seems to depend entirely on a covering of vegetable earth, which, in its forest state, had, for perhaps thousands of years, been

forming and accumulating on its surface, and of which the fertility is so great, that but little labour and no manure is required to make it bear, year after year, abundant crops of grain. Every successive crop, however, abstracts a portion of the vegetative principle the soil contains, and in a certain time, longer or shorter, according to the thickness of the covering, it will be entirely deprived of its vivifying powers, and reduced to a *caput mortuum*. Whether after this, the land may be of any use, will depend on the quality of the *subsoil*, and however naturally rich the subsoil may be, it will before it will carry crops of grain have to be fertilized by being brought to the surface and fed with proper manure. How much better then must it be, by a right mode of cultivation, to maintain the present valuable surface soil in its fruitful state.

There is not in the States, as there is in Britain, that peculiar feeling of the *amor patriæ* which attaches a man to a particular locality, and probably induces him to use means for establishing it as the home of his descen-

dants. In the former country the abnegation of the law of primogeniture in a manner precludes the establishment of *family estates*, and land is so universally an article of commerce, that to ask a gentleman to sell his house and land, is just as permissible as it were in England to ask a dealer to sell a horse.

Hence, perhaps, arose a migratory propensity, observable in the generality of persons engaged in the business of agriculture, and hence the difficulty of reconciling them to meliorating modes of husbandry involving fixedness of residence. The States, many of them argue, are a wide field, and there is in them plenty of land to be reclaimed. It will therefore be long ere it be necessary to take heed how soils are managed. When one farm ceases to be profitably productive, another may be cleared, and economising the fructifying quality of the soil is therefore a matter not yet worth consideration. In short, a profit which is *immediate*, is the profit which most of them seek after, and consequently an expenditure on land, which is to be productive of a

permanent but only *gradual* return, is repugnant to their habits.

To those who are actuated by such views, it were probably vain to remark, that although the States are indeed “a wide field,” the encrease of population there is astonishingly rapid—that the clearing of the forests has already extended so far as to excite in some quarters an apprehension of a dearth of timber—and that there is reason to think a great many years may not elapse before all the reclaimable land shall have been brought into cultivation.

With a view to the public interests of the States, it seems, therefore, a matter of serious importance, that the destruction of land by irremediable impoverishment should be prevented. How far this might be accomplished by the establishment of institutions in the different States, having for their object *the encouragement of approved modes of husbandry*, I may not presume to say, but I may refer to the “Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland,” as an instance of the immense advantages which a country may derive from a

general association of its leading men, encouraging by their own example, and rewarding by liberal premiums, improvements in the various branches of rural economy. More remarkable testimony to the benefits diffused by that Society, could not have been borne, than has been afforded by its having been taken as a model for England, in an association lately established, and now in operation in that country.

But although it is not difficult to show that an alteration of the practice of husbandry in the States, is called for by a regard to the public advantage, the improvements I would suggest for the adoption of the American farmer, are such as I conceive would *not diminish immediate profit*, but, on the contrary, *materially encrease it*.

The principal error in American cultivation is the frequent repetition of culmiferous crops, without the application of a sufficiency of manure to compensate for the matter they abstract from the soil.

The arable land in those parts of the States

visited by me, is in general a rich friable loam, or a rich vegetable mould, in both cases such as, in Scotland, would be deemed peculiarly adapted for green crops of all descriptions.

On such land, therefore, may successfully be followed a system of convertible husbandry, based on a rotation which an experienced farmer will have no difficulty in adapting to his peculiar soil, and so arranged that the severity of grain crops may be modified or counteracted by the alternation of grass and green crops in their proper order. Under such a system the soil would be nourished and supported, by manure used for the green crops, and the green crops, such as turnips, potatoes, mangel-wurzel, would be consumed in winter by stock properly foddered and littered, and thus manure in sufficient quantity, would every year be manufactured—the land would be kept in good tilth—stock of greater value would be reared—and upon the whole, the receipts of the farmer would be encreased in amount with little or no additional outlay.

This is not a prediction rested on mere theory ; for at a period not yet beyond memory, before the introduction of convertible husbandry in Scotland, it was nothing uncommon to see the farmer's stock so attenuated by the dearth and insufficiency of winter food, as to be almost unable to walk to their pastures in spring. But with convertible husbandry came the cultivation of turnips and other green crops, before unknown. By the use of such green crops, the straw came to be converted into valuable manure ; the soil was rendered greatly more productive ; and now, at the end of winter, the stock of a Scotch farmer is not the mere skin and bone of former times, but in the best condition, or, if such has been the purpose, ready for the butcher.

I have already made such observations on the descriptions of American stock I had opportunities of inspecting, as occurred to me at the moment, and I would here remark that in the management of that branch of farming, there is in the States, a want of attention to two things of essential importance—1st, the selection of



suitable breeds, and keeping them pure—and, 2dly, the provision of shelter for stock in winter.

With regard to breed, where the distance to market is not considerable, or where fat cattle may be *carried* to market, I should think short-horns the most suitable stock for a States' farmer, as that breed feeds kindly and to a great weight, and is of a hardy constitution, and as the soil of the States is amply calculated to rear it to perfection.

But of whatever breed he makes choice, he should be particular as to its purity, both in the original purchase, and by endeavouring to preserve it from mixture with other breeds. Or if from any circumstance he finds a cross advisable or unavoidable, he should by all means shun *breeding from the cross*, otherwise he will soon render his stock wholly mongrel and comparatively worthless, which indeed I observed is the case with regard to the greater part of the American stock I examined. On the other hand there is a disadvantage in breeding long *in families*, and this

may easily be avoided by occasional exchanges, between neighbours having stock similar in breed but not related. These I conceive are fixed rules everywhere, in the proper management of stock.

But no breed of cattle can possibly thrive, if not sheltered from inclement weather, and therefore the practice of exposing stock in open fields, to the rigour of a North American winter, must be condemned as beyond measure incongruous, the disadvantages by loss of manure and injury to the cattle, which arise from it being incalculable.

Further as indispensable to the introduction of tenants from Britain, I would to proprietors who do not farm their own land, but commit its cultivation partly or wholly to others, reiterate my recommendation of the adoption of a judicious system of LEASING.

As far as I could perceive, the common description of rural tenantry in America, are a sort of *contractors*, who agree to plough and crop a portion of land by the year, and to de-

liver in name of rent, a certain portion of the crop *in bulk*.

Under this system the land is robbed of the straw which ought to be converted into manure, and consequently, year by year, must become more and more deteriorated ; and at last finding it has been nearly worked out, and rendered no longer capable of making him a due return for his trouble, the contractor leaves it, and in the wide range of the States, seeks and readily finds another lot, to be ploughed and cropped and impoverished in its turn.

That this system is an improvident one is very obvious, and it is equally so that the evil consequences inseparable from it, might be averted by an arrangement of the land into proper sized farms, of from 200 to 500 acres, according to the means of tenants—erecting upon them suitable buildings both for the accommodation of the tenants and for housing their stock—and granting leases for a term of years sufficient for ensuring a return of the

capital which the tenants might lay out in the improvement of the soil.

I had the satisfaction, in one instance, of convincing an extensive landowner, Mr Henry Barclay near Red-Hook, of the advantage to be derived from granting leases ; and I hope to hear that he has carried his purpose of adopting that system into execution. The encouragement which his locality temptingly holds out to enterprizing farmers, I have already explained.

But although I succeeded in making but one convert among the landed proprietors, I had an opportunity of ascertaining that the sort of tenantry I have described, are themselves quite sensible of the disadvantage of their present tenure, and would be found ready to embrace the system of leases I recommend.

It is to such a system that in Scotland is mainly owing those improvements which in the last sixty years have raised it to eminence in scientific agriculture, and it cannot be doubted that its adoption would encrease the

value of land and advance the character of agriculture in America.

Besides, an important benefit arising from the granting of leases is that farms are for the greater part tenanted by men reared from infancy to agriculture—who study it as a profession, and pursue it with the skill and energy necessary to success. Britain thus possesses a numerous race who for agricultural knowledge, patriotic feeling, and moral conduct, are nowhere surpassed—who are the pride and glory and decidedly the best bulwarks of their country.

Under this system of leasing British farmers would flock to the States, and by the application of their skill and capital, not only enrich themselves, but set an example that would disseminate itself and eventually prove valuable to the country. And I do not hesitate to give it as my decided opinion, that if the landed proprietors of the States could be induced to adopt that system, farmers emigrating from Britain, would do better to become their ten-

ants, than in the first instance to purchase land.

Where, however, the British farmer is possessed of capital sufficient for the purchase, and also the *stocking and cultivating*, of a farm, he might certainly find his account in making a purchase in the States. From the generally moderate price of land and the opportunity he would have of reclaiming a fertile soil, or by his superior skill, rendering that which is already reclaimed greatly more fruitful, he might assure himself of such a return for capital as I believe is not to be had from agriculture in any other country equally abounding as the States are in all the comforts of life.

But I need hardly observe, that in making a purchase of a farm, he must take care to retain sufficiency of capital for stocking and cultivating it, because were he to expend his all in the purchase, he must from obvious causes, go to work *here* with great and peculiar disadvantage—he might draw from the land a subsistence for his family, but in all probabili-

ty nothing more, and even that with toil and difficulty. It is the danger of this inconvenience, that induces me to think *renting* land is in the first instance safer and more advisable.

It is generally supposed that the high price of labour in America, operates as a drawback in the business of farming—but there are compensating circumstances which, in the consideration of this matter, ought to be kept in view.

Although the nominal price of a day's labour is greater in America than in Britain, the quantum of labour purchased by it is also greater.

Thus, at Geneseo, I found a labourer's wages to be about 3s. per diem, with board and lodging, but, then, let it be considered what he gives in return :—he works from sunrise to sunset, with short intervals for breakfast and dinner—or he ploughs two acres a day—or in a day he mows between two and three acres of wheat, or two acres of clover—and one man takes charge of as many as 2000

sheep, in all things but the shearing of them, which is done by contract. The individual I found in charge of a flock of that number was an English shepherd, and the only complaint he seemed to have was that there was occasionally superadded to his task, a call to assist at farm work.

In this way the real price of labour in America, is brought nearer its price in Britain, than at first sight appears ; and accordingly, by the information I obtained, the expense of raising an acre of wheat in the free States, is no more than about L. 3 of our money, which is considerably less than the same expense, exclusive of rent, in any part of Britain.

It is also to be considered that to the price he pays for labour, the British farmer has to add taxes and rates far exceeding any imposts directly or indirectly affecting land in America, and greatly outbalancing any advantage he can have from any difference in the rate of wages. \*

\* In connection with this part of the subject it may be noticed that it appears by a Report lately delivered to



There is one circumstance which renders cultivation in America an agreeable task, when we look to the obstacles to it which often occur in Britain, and that is the absence of land-springs. I did not observe in the States a single field in which a drain had been formed or was required, nor, with exceptions not worth mentioning, any land in the smallest degree infested with boulder stones. There is thus in the soil of an American farm no superabundant moisture to be got rid of, and after the land has been cleared of timber, nothing to impede the plough.

It may not be deemed foreign to my purpose, in recommending a preference for the States to my emigrating countrymen, to devote a few words to the condition of American society.

I had long heard much of the impertinent curiosity, rudeness, vulgarity, and selfishness of the people of the States, but instead of any

the House of Commons that in five years, from 1834 to 1839, the average price of wheat was at New York L. 2, 9s. 10d. per quarter, and in England L. 2, 11s.

extraordinary signs of these repulsive qualities, I found good breeding, politeness, frank hospitality, and every generous feeling prevailing amongst them, in as great a degree and with as few exceptions as at home.

In the cities I saw none of the open displays of depravity, which disfigure our large towns, and in all my journeying I never saw the face of a policeman—never met a beggar or any one in the garb of mendicity—never heard uttered an oath or imprecation—and never witnessed an instance of intoxication but one, and that I regret to say was furnished by a Scotsman. I observed when at Albany, that the Americans are attentive to their religious duties, and this opinion has been confirmed by a further acquaintance with them.

One does not meet here with any pretension to the *high fashion* bred in courts and pervading their atmospheres, but exclude this from the comparison, and, between the States and England, there will be found in private society, such a resemblance of manners as for the moment makes a Briton forget he is not in

his own country—or if that shall be called to his mind, it will probably be by a difference only in the personal appearance of the natives of the two countries.

In rural districts this dissimilarity in exterior appearance is not so striking as in the cities. But in the latter the men generally are more sallow, and care-worn, and less robust than Englishmen—and there also, in the greater number of females, there is a very obvious appearance of languor and delicacy of frame, while the bloom and vivacity of countenance, the elastic gait and rounded form of an English beauty, are hardly to be met with. These distinctive qualities are in America the effects of climate, heightened in the case of females by the most exemplary domestic habits, and consequent sedentariness.

It cannot perhaps be said, that in Britain there is any deficiency of chivalrous bearing towards the fair sex, but I remarked of America that this sort of feeling passes through all ranks more obviously than I had met with it at home. Every man here, rich or poor, seems

on all occasions sedulously to give place and precedence to females, and the meanest of them are exempt, or I might rather say debarred, from those masculine or laborious tasks which are commonly enough assigned the sex, or assumed by them, in our country. For instance, a woman employed at work in the fields is nowhere to be seen, and although this with us might be thought a refinement, it is at least an amiable one.

Before setting foot on the republican soil of America, one supposes he is to hear broached there no sentiment that does not comport with a veneration for that perfect *equality*, upon which the social compact in that country theoretically is based ; but he has not long mixed in American society ere he discovers, in many quarters, a strong aristocratic feeling—in some the pride of learning, in many the pride of riches, and in not a few even the pride of family.

This feeling is easy to be perceived in the portion of the States I visited, and I understand is found much stronger in the more south-

ern states. One day, and that perhaps at no great distance, it is likely to end in an open and acknowledged distinction of ranks, including every gradation of precedence from the humble "labourer" up to the man of quality and title.

I had formed this impression very soon after my arrival in America, and a few words, having some reference to the state of society, which the President did me the honour to address to me when at Washington, have not had the effect of effacing it.

In the praise which, on the whole, truth has compelled me to bestow on the American States, I do not forget that their greatness is an emanation from my own country, and that while she on the one hand may be proud of her offspring, they on the other hand have reason to be proud of their origin. This I believe is the feeling of every well constructed mind in both countries, and deeply is it to be regretted that grovelling passions are ever allowed to impair that feeling, or to put in jeopardy the bonds of mutual friendship, in which

a proper sense of mutual interests ought unceasingly to unite them.

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On Saturday the 17th of July at eleven A. M. I embarked in the Britannia for Old England, and arrived at Liverpool at seven P. M. on the 29th, after a passage of twelve days from Boston, and only nine days twenty hours from Halifax.

On my taking leave of Captain Cleland he jocosely addressed me in these words :— “ You have now crossed the Atlantic in shorter time than ever it was crossed since the Atlantic was the Atlantic,—*and you may tack that to the rest of your feats.*”

## APPENDIX.





## A P P E N D I X.

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### DINNER

TO

CAPTAIN BARCLAY OF URY,

AT STONEHAVEN.

ON Friday the 6th July 1838, a Public Dinner was given to Captain ROBERT BARCLAY ALLARDICE of Ury, in a large granary attached to the Glenury Distillery, by about two hundred of the Gentry and Farmers of the Mearns and adjacent counties. The chair was filled by John Carnegie, Esq. of Redhall. The croupiers were—Mr Garland of Cairnton; Mr Thom of Uras; Mr Hector of Fernieflat; and Mr Scott, Kirk-town of Benholm. Among the gentlemen on each side of the chair, besides the distinguished guest, we observed the Right Honourable Viscount Arbuthnott; Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, Bart.; Sir John Stuart Forbes of Fettercairn, Bart.; the Honourable the Master of Arbuthnott; William Innes, Esq. of Raemoir; —

Innes, Esq. younger thereof ; Robert Duff, Esq. of Fetteresso ; G. Silver, Esq. of Netherley, Convener of the County ; Captain Cheape of Strathtyrum ; Henry Lumsden, Esq. of Tilwhilly ; Mr Lumsden, yr. thereof ; Alexander Gibbon, Esq. of Johnston ; Lewis Crombie, Esq. of Kirkhill ; Captain Scott, R.N. ; J. B. M'Combie, Esq. of Jellybrands ; W. M'Combie, Esq. of Easter Skene ; Mr Sheriff Fullerton ; — Taylor, Esq. of Cushnie ; — Innes, Esq. Aberdeen ; Mr Shand, advocate, do. ; Alexander Hadden, Esq. do. ; Captain Scott, R.N. ; Mr Blaikie, advocate ; Mr Alexander Gordon, advocate ; Mr Gordon of Manar ; Mr Mackenzie. yr. of Glack ; Captain Skene of Lethenty ; Mr Chalmers of Westburn ; Dr John Campbell ; Mr Peter, Factor to the Earl of Kintore ; Mr Monro of Berryhill ; Mr Robertson of Haughhead ; Mr Tindal, Procurator Fiscal of Kincardineshire ; Mr Christian, Chief Magistrate of Stonehaven ; Dr Thomson ; Mr James Brebner, advocate ; Mr Burness, banker, Stonehaven ; Mr Kinnear and Mr Smart, solicitors, do. ; Mr Valentine, Bogmuir ; Mr Anderson, Pitcarry ; Mr Napier, corn merchant ; Dr Fettes ; Mr David Barclay, North Water Bridge, Montrose, &c. &c.

The Hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers. Behind the chair were the Royal Arms and those of Captain Barclay.

The dinner having been concluded, the Chairman stated that he had received letters of apology from some gentlemen who were prevented by business and other

causes from attending. He at the same time congratulated the company upon the numerous and respectable assemblage who had met to do honour to their distinguished guest.

Before the first toast was proposed, several ladies, among whom were Miss Barclay of Ury, Mrs and Miss Innes of Raemoir, &c. entered the room, and were greeted with loud applause.

The CHAIRMAN then rose, and gave the first toast—"The Queen"—which was drunk with all the honours. (Air—God save the Queen.)

"The Queen Dowager, and the rest of the Royal Family." (Air—Of a noble race was Shenkin.)

"Lord Hill and the Army." (Air—British Grenadiers.)

"Lord Minto and the Navy." (Air—Rule Britannia.)

The CHAIRMAN then rose and called for a special and overflowing bumper. It was now his grateful duty to propose the toast of the evening; and, in the first place, in the name of himself and the other farmers present, he must return their united and cordial thanks to their distinguished guest for the readiness with which he had responded to their desire of meeting him here on this occasion. (Cheers.) To none were his valuable services better known than to them—his patriotic character—his kindness as a landlord—his genuine goodness of heart. (Loud cheers.) He would not detain them by dwelling

upon what they knew so well. He might also allude to Captain Barclay as the representative of an ancient and honourable house, and one who, apart altogether from his success as a farmer, had, by the brilliant incidents in his career, acquired for himself a name more widely celebrated than that of any other gentleman in Britain. (Cheers.) But he would now consider him only as the proprietor of Ury. It was as a resident landlord—as an agriculturist—that they were met to honour him; as one, who, shedding the influence of his example through the country, and treading in the steps of his immediate ancestor, had contributed to raise the agriculture of the country to that state which had rendered Scotland the best cultivated country in the world. (Loud cheers.) But if they owed much to Captain Barclay as a farmer, they owed still more to him as a breeder of live stock. Regardless of expense, he had introduced into the country a breed of cattle which was unmatched in Scotland, and unsurpassed elsewhere. By crossing the short-horned or Durham breed with the breed of the country, he had greatly improved upon both; and by his annual sales at Ury, he had widely disseminated a most splendid herd of cattle. He had also introduced the valuable breed of Leicester sheep. The introduction of steam navigation so extensively had, by opening up the markets, enabled us fully to appreciate the benefit derived from the introduction of a stock which was as valuable at one year old, in flesh and wool, as the common breed at full age. He would

not longer detain them, but propose the health of "Captain Barclay of Ury." The toast was drunk with all the honours. (Air—Kind Robin lo'es me.)

Captain BARCLAY rose amidst loud cheers, and said, —Mr Chairman and Gentlemen—Unaccustomed as I am to address a large public assembly, I should feel it sufficiently embarrassing to do so even on any ordinary occasion. You may judge, then, how utterly impossible it is for me, even were I gifted with the command of language and eloquence of a Peel or a Brougham, to express, in anything like adequate terms, the feelings which at this moment pervade my mind. You have conferred upon me the greatest honour which, in my opinion, a country gentleman can receive—the spontaneous expression of approbation of his conduct, by the practical farmers, cordially joined by the landed proprietors and other kind friends. Gentlemen, I should be paying but a poor compliment to your judgment, if I did not admit that I am aware that this mark of your respect has been caused by your feeling that, by my pursuits and exertions as an agriculturist, I have been the means of doing the country some good service. (Cheers.) If I am right in this conjecture, the fondest wish of my heart has been obtained. (Loud cheers.) From my earliest infancy my mind was turned to agriculture; but, in this pursuit, the path was made easy, by the energy, talent, and perseverance of a father. Forty-one years have now passed away since he departed this life, and there are

but few remaining who recollect him, and still fewer who witnessed his exertions. In the year 1761, he succeeded to the estate of Ury by the death of my grandfather. At that period agriculture was at a very low ebb. My grandfather, although a most respectable man, had no turn for improvement, nor had any of his predecessors. Indeed, the pursuit of agriculture was generally despised through the country. But my father seems to have been a heaven-born improver; for such was his enthusiasm, that a year before his father's death, he carried on his back, all the way from Aberdeen, a bundle of young trees, which he planted in the den of Ury with his own hand, sorely to the vexation of the old gentleman, who complained that the protecting of the plants annoyed the people's sheep. (Cheers and laughter.) Soon after this my father went to Norfolk, then the great agricultural school of the kingdom, where he served a regular apprenticeship to the business, and brought home with him not only the most improved implements of husbandry, but also a number of Norfolk ploughmen. (Cheers.) At that time the tenantry were little better than the boors of Germany and Russia, and the lairds were more inclined to break each other's heads than to break up the treasures of the earth. (Laughter.) Seeing, then, that preaching doctrines was of no avail without putting them into practical operation, he took into his own hands a large surface of about 2000 acres. At that time the estate of Ury was a complete waste, consisting of bogs, baulks,

and rigs, everywhere intersected with cairns of stones and moorland. For twenty years he toiled most indefatigably ; and during all that time he was never known to be in bed after five o'clock in the morning, winter or summer. He was the first man who sowed a turnip in a field, or artificial grasses, north of the Frith of Forth. During this period he thoroughly improved 2000 acres, reclaimed from moor 800, and planted from 1200 to 1500 acres chiefly with forest trees. Gradually his operations began to attract attention, and be followed by the proprietors and tenantry around, until at last that spirit of improvement burst forth, which has placed the agriculture of this part of the country, and Scotland generally, in the high state of excellence in which we now find it. (Cheers.) You thus see that my way was made comparatively easy, and I had only to perfect and fill up a great outline which had been drawn for me. My father proceeded on a different principle from most other improvers. He commenced at the far end, for he used to say that " a tired man would struggle hard to reach home." The consequence of this was, that on my accession I found the most neglected part of the estate to be that near the Mansion House. I said, "*this* shall never be ;" and I have now the satisfaction of saying that the estate of Ury is one of the most highly improved and beautified estates in the country. (Cheers.) My next consideration was, how to turn the means of improvement I possessed to most advantage. About the year 1822, I introduced the breed

of Leicester sheep and Durham cattle. They have been eminently successful, and the improvement which has been effected by crossing these with the native breed of the country, it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon, as *you* are the best judges. (Loud cheers.) I hail this meeting as a tribute of regard to the memory of my father, and also as an omen of the high estimation in which agriculture is held by all classes of persons through the country ; for there are here assembled not only country gentlemen and practical farmers, but also those connected with the great trading and manufacturing interests. (Cheers.) There is one other subject which I feel it right to touch upon. You are all aware that a few months ago, it was more than probable, I should have been called upon to fill a high and important situation in a distant part of the world. The history of that affair is this. In 1835, a company of persons received a grant of land in New Holland, extending to no less than 300,000 square miles, for the purpose of founding a colony. This colony was established on different principles from any other, inasmuch as neither slave nor convict labour was allowed, but the whole labour was performed by free labourers and voluntary emigrants. The Commissioners for the management of this colony first appointed as Governor, Captain Hindmarsh of the Royal Navy ; but it was soon found that, although a gallant officer, he was perfectly incapable of taking charge of an infant agricultural colony. Accordingly, about Christmas last, he was



recalled. Some of my friends applied to me to accept of the situation. I went to London, where several of my friends interested themselves greatly in the matter, particularly, I may mention, Dr Crombie of Phesdo. I found there, that although the Commissioners had nominally the patronage, the appointment was really in the gift of the Colonial Secretary. My friends made no interest whatever with the government; but on this part of the business I shall not touch, lest I should draw on anything like political discussion. I shall merely say, that after all the arrangements appeared to have been concluded, an invisible hand suddenly checkmated the whole concern. I had, however, on that occasion, the satisfaction of receiving the most flattering testimonials from some of the highest and noblest in the land—from the Earl of Leicester (better known as the celebrated Mr Coke of Norfolk), the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Aberdeen, and the Viscount of Arbuthnott. The Earl of Leicester's letter to me says—"I can hardly conceive any person so eminently qualified to take charge of an infant agricultural colony as you are." These sentiments are now corroborated by this expression of your approbation. (Loud cheers.) No doubt it would have cost me a severe pang to have left my native land, if not for ever, at all events for a considerable number of years; but I felt that I had a grand field of enterprise before me—country twice as large as the British empire, with the finest soil and climate in the world. I also bore in mind

that I would there have it in my power to be of use to my friends in this country. There is not the same opening here for employment that there was forty years ago. Many farmers also, with large families, find it difficult to put them out in the world. I had the agreeable feeling that I should have had the opportunity of lending them my best assistance. (Loud cheers.) I should certainly have done so to the utmost of my power. (Continued cheering.) Gentlemen, the recollection of a dinner may pass away, but the remembrance of this meeting shall never pass from my mind, nor from the view of those who may succeed me. The proceedings of this day will no doubt appear in the public prints. I shall take care to have such account framed and glazed, and hung up in the Hall of Ury, as a proud memorial of the good opinion of the farmers of the country, and of my kind friends around me. (Loud and long-continued cheering.) Dinners are often given as a mark of approbation of particular political sentiments, and for other reasons, but I am not aware that one like this has ever been given in this country. (Cheers.) I shall not longer detain you—I feel that I have encroached too much upon your time already (No, no); but it was impossible for me not to attempt to give some expression to the overflowings of a grateful mind. (Captain Barclay sat down amidst loud cheering.)

The Chairman rose and again called for three distinct rounds of cheers for Captain Barclay, which were given in the most enthusiastic manner.

The CHAIRMAN said he had now to propose the health of a noble Viscount, whom he was proud and happy to see with them on this occasion—one who was an ornament to the peerage, and in every respect a perfect model of a country gentleman. He alluded to the noble Lord on his right, the Lord Lieutenant of the County. In no county had her Majesty a more worthy representative, or one held in greater or better-merited esteem—a feeling which he was assured would be evinced by the reception given to this toast. He proposed the health of the “Right Honourable Viscount Arbuthnott.” The health was drunk with loud applause. (Air—The Reel o’ the Mearns.)

Viscount ARBUTHNOTT returned thanks. He felt very proud of the compliment which they had paid him, but at the same time he felt that he did not deserve the warm eulogium which his friend the Chairman had passed upon him. It had given him great pleasure to join in paying this just tribute of respect and gratitude to Mr Barclay. He would yield to no man in his feeling of respect and admiration for his character. (Cheers.)

The ladies having now left the room, amid loud cheering,

Viscount ARBUTHNOTT rose and said, he understood they had been honoured by the presence of an interesting lady, who had just left them. He would now propose the health of “Miss Barclay,” Drunk with all the honours. (Air—My Love she’s but a Lassie yet.)

Sir THOMAS BURNETT said he had been allowed by

the Chairman to propose a toast. It was impossible to suppose, in such a numerous company as this, that they should be agreed upon every subject; but there was one good feeling pervading them all, that of doing honour to their guest, and he was sure no other feeling would be allowed to appear. He would propose the health of the Member for the County, "General Arbuthnott." They would all agree that no man could discharge his duties in a more straightforward, honest, and conscientious manner. Drunk with all the honours. (Air—Chorus from Massaniello.)

VISCOUNT ARBUTHNOTT returned thanks. No man would be more gratified to have been present on this occasion than General Arbuthnott. He begged to thank the company and Sir Thomas Burnett for the kind manner in which they had drunk his health, and to say that he felt highly flattered by the compliment paid to his brother.

THE CHAIRMAN.—There was one toast which should never be omitted in this county, on an occasion of this kind—"The memory of the late Mr Barclay." In doing honour to the son, they ought not to overlook the merits of the sire. He had had the vigour of mind to see through the darkness in which the agriculture of Scotland was enveloped; and the fruits of this they were now reaping—thanks to the present proprietor. He proposed "The Memory of the late Mr Barclay." Drunk in solemn silence. (Air—The land o' the leal.)

The CHAIRMAN.—He had now the pleasure of proposing the health of an honourable Baronet present, whose patriotic character was well known through the country at large. He was always found at the head of every great undertaking for the good of the country. There was one great national association, with which his name was intimately connected, the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, of which he was a most zealous office-bearer. He begged to propose “ Sir John Forbes, and the Highland Society of Scotland.” (Great applause.) (Air—Saw ye Johnny comin’.)

Sir J. S. FORBES said, he was sure if Mr Barclay laboured under a feeling of embarrassment in addressing them, they would give him (Sir J. F.) credit for feeling doubly embarrassed on this occasion. He was much indebted to his friend, the Chairman, for the kind manner in which he had proposed his health, and to the company, for the way in which they had received it. The terms in which he had been spoken of, were, he was conscious, much more laudatory than his merits at all warranted. But, fortunately, his friend had furnished him with the outlet and loophole, by which to escape from his embarrassment, by connecting his name with the Highland Society of Scotland, of which he was treasurer. He certainly had used his utmost exertions to forward the great object for which that Society was instituted—the support of agriculture. He had endeavoured zealously and conscientiously to do his duty. They were

all aware of the benefits which that Society had conferred. It had been the means of spreading a spirit of improvement and enterprise through the country. They all remembered the circumstances which had led to the origination of the Society. The father of their guest was the one who had first prompted the friends of agriculture in Scotland to commence a system which had done so much good. He was happy to say that the Society's prospects of usefulness were improving every year. The results of their Shows at Glasgow, Inverness, and Aberdeen, held out such promises of support as led to a reasonable expectation that the resources and usefulness of the Society would increase tenfold. He was happy to say, that at a general meeting in Edinburgh, on Monday next, there was a list of 172 candidates for admission to be balloted from. (Cheers.) In conclusion, he begged to return them his best thanks.

VISCOUNT ARBUTHNOTT proposed the health of "Sir Thomas Burnett," for whom, notwithstanding the difference of opinion between them on some subjects, he entertained every respect. (Air—My boy, Tammy.)

SIR THOMAS BURNETT said he was at a loss for words to express his sense of the kindness of the Noble Lord and the meeting. Nothing could give him greater satisfaction than to be present at a meeting of this kind, where every feeling of hostility was buried, and they were all united in one object.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the Sheriffs of the County,

by whom justice was administered, in the most able, impartial, and successful manner—" Sheriffs Douglas and Fullerton." (Air—Malbrook.)

Sheriff FULLERTON returned thanks.

Mr INNES of Raemoir said, that in the demonstration which they had now the pleasure of making, it was natural for them to think of the other members of Mr Barclay's family. He begged to propose the health of " Mr and Mrs Gurney." He knew them well, and valued them highly ; and he knew that they cherished the warmest feelings towards this part of the country. (Cheers.) (Air—Auld lang syne.)

Captain BARCLAY begged to return his kindest thanks for the way they had drunk the health of his sister and her husband. He would take care to make it known to them, and he knew that nothing could afford them greater pleasure. Though fate had placed Mrs Gurney in a distant part of the kingdom, yet he could assure them that her heart was in her native county. Mr Gurney was possessed of a princely fortune, which he devoted to the best purposes. A more charitable and benevolent individual did not exist.

Viscount ARBUTHNOTT proposed the health of " The Chairman," and eulogised highly the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of the chair. (Air—John o' Badenyon.)

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks.

Mr SILVER said, he had to propose the health of a

noble lady, whose amiable character was so well known, that he could add nothing to enhance it in their estimation—"The Viscountess of Arbuthnott." Cheers. (Air—The bonniest lass in a' the world.)

LORD ARBUTHNOTT returned thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed the health of "Mr Silver, the Convener of the County," who was well known as an eminent and skilful agriculturist. The farmer who obtained his opinion in conducting his operations, was exceedingly well off. (Air—The mucking o' Geordy's byre.)

MR SILVER returned thanks, and said, that whatever his opinion was worth, it was always at the service of his friends.

MR SCOTT of Benholm proposed "Lord Kintore and the proprietors of the County." (Air—When our ancient forefathers agreed wi' the laird.)

LORD ARBUTHNOTT returned thanks. His Lordship then said, that although there was a proverbial expression which spoke of "the little men of the Mearns," yet the tenantry of the County would yield to none in respectability and intelligence. He proposed "Prosperity to the Tenantry of the Mearns." (Air—The lea rig.)

MR GARLAND returned thanks, and said they felt very proud of having the company of so many of their proprietors to assist in offering a small mark of respect to a distinguished agriculturist.

MR LUMSDEN of Tilwhilly in terms of high eulogy



proposed "The Croupiers and Stewards." (Air—There's three guid fellows ayont yon glen.)

Mr HECTOR returned thanks.

Captain BARCLAY proposed the health of " Lord Panmure," a nobleman universally known and esteemed over the whole kingdom. He had enjoyed his acquaintance for more than thirty years, and although their opinions on some subjects differed widely, yet that had never occasioned a moment's interruption to their friendship. His Lordship would have been present on this occasion, but for an accident which he had met with while dispensing his usual hospitalities during the Trinity Muir Fair. They knew that, on that occasion, he always kept an open house—the last was the forty-sixth anniversary on which he had done so. Captain Barclay then read a letter from Lord Panmure, expressing his regret at his necessary absence, and deprecating the allowing of political differences to interfere on such occasions. His Lordship's health was drunk with loud cheers. (Air—Up and War them a' Willie.)

The CHAIRMAN, after some observations on the improvement introduced into the agriculture of the country by means of bone manure, steam navigation, and tile draining, said it had been matter of deep regret, that hitherto tile draining had been little practised among them, although it was the only effectual means of improving moss and moor land. He was happy to say, however, that this want was now in the way of being supplied.

Thanks to the energy of Sir John Forbes—they had now two brick kilns erected for the manufacture of tiles, which were likely to pay the projectors, as well as to confer a most important boon on the country. He concluded by proposing “Thé Plough.” (Air—Speed the Plough.)

Sir THOMAS BURNETT gave “Mr Hadden and the Manufacturing Interest.” (Air—The Rock and the Wee Pickle Tow.)

Mr HECTOR proposed “Mr Windsor,” who had exerted himself strongly to assist the Committee to make their arrangements. (Air—O’er the Water to Charlie.)

The CHAIRMAN gave “Prosperity to the Royal Glenury Distillery.” He eulogised Mr Barclay as a benefactor to agriculture, as a magistrate, as a kind master, whose servants had grown grey in his service—(loud cheers)—and now they were indebted to him for this distillery, which not only afforded the best market for their barley, but also, as they could testify at this moment, a most delicious and powerful beverage. If her Majesty could only have tasted the produce of her own distillery at Glenury, she would undoubtedly have forsworn thin potatoes, and addicted herself to strong waters. (Laughter.) They were told, on good authority, that the juice of the grape rejoiced the heart of man; the same might have been said of the barley bree. (Cheers.) (Air—Willie brew’d a peck o’ Maut.)

Captain BARCLAY returned thanks for the high com-

pliment that had been paid him, and for the honour done to the partners of the Glenury Distillery. That distillery in some measure derived its origin from a suggestion of his own. He contemplated the advantage that it would be for the farmers to have a ready market for their barley. The distillery had now been fourteen or fifteen years in existence, and amidst several vicissitudes, it had still been able to keep its footing, and it was at present equal or superior to most distilleries in Scotland. It was his wish and desire, if it could be done without disadvantage, that the farmers in this neighbourhood should have the preference in getting clear of their grain. The consumpt was now on a large scale, and amounted to about ten thousand quarters a-year, which must be a material benefit to the neighbouring country. The spirit itself had given the greatest satisfaction, and the trade, he had no doubt, would now go on flourishingly and successfully. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Master of Arbuthnott," who was residing among them as a country gentleman, and was treading in the footsteps of his noble father. Might he long walk in the path he had selected. (Air—The bonnie House of Airlie.)

Viscount ARBUTHNOTT returned thanks in the name of his son, who had by this time left the company.

Captain BARCLAY, in very feeling and appropriate terms, gave "The Memory of the Duke of Gordon," a nobleman who had not left his like in the kingdom.

Drunk in solem silence. (Air—The Flowers of the Forest.)

Sir JOHN FORBES proposed the health of a most deserving class of men, “The Cottars and Ploughmen of the Mearns,” who were rising in the estimation of the country, in proportion as new improvements were introduced. (Air—Sweet Home.)

The CHAIRMAN gave “The Church of Scotland.” (Air—This is just mine ain house.)

Mr INNES of Raemoir proposed “The Roof-tree of Fetteresso.” (Air—My boy Tammy.)

Mr HADDEN proposed the health of “His Grace the Duke of Richmond.” (Air—Good old English Gentleman.)

Mr GARLAND gave “The Grain Merchants of the District,” who were all honest men, and whose money was as sure as an order on the bank. (Air—Corn Rigs.)

Mr JAMES NAPIER of Stonehaven returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN gave “The Strangers.” (Air—Blue Bonnets over the Border.)

Captain CHEAPE returned thanks.

Mr THOM of Uras gave “The Bar of Stonehaven and Mr Monro.” (Air—Malbrook.)

Mr MONRO returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN begged to propose a toast to the “Banking Interests.” The time was, when banks were first established in Scotland, that so ignorant were the people, that none but Englishmen would take shares, and

Englishmen only got situations in them. But now *tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*; one-pound notes are as plentiful as blackberries (laughter); and the English are fain to take a leaf out of our book, and to borrow the Scotch system—that excellent system which is one of the most beneficial features in our commercial economy, and which has so largely contributed to raise our nation to the high rank which it now holds.

Mr BURNES, Banker, returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN then gave “The Town and Trade of Stonehaven, and Mr Barclay, the superior of the Newtown.”

Mr BARCLAY, in returning thanks, said the superior of the Newtown was Lord Arbuthnott. There was one man still alive, who recollected when there was but one thatched house in Arduthie, or the Newtown of Stonehaven. The plan of it had been laid down by his father, and it was now the most regular little town in Scotland, containing three thousand inhabitants. His father, though not the superior, was truly the father of it. (Cheers.)

Several other toasts were drunk, and the evening passed with the greatest harmony and cordiality. The company broke up before ten o'clock.

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